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CHRIST UPON EARTH, WRIT-
TEN ANEW FOR CHILDREN BY
J. W. MACKAIL, SOMETIME FEL-
LOW OF BALLIOL COLLEGE,
OXFORD

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CHAPTER I

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

IN the beginning the word was alive with God, and made all things, for the word was God. Life was in the word, and that life was the light of men. The light shone in the darkness, but the darkness was not turned into light, until in the end the word was made flesh and lived upon earth, and men's eyes saw the glory of the word made visible, as the glory of God's only son. He was in the world that he had made, and the world did not know him: but to those who knew him he was truth and beauty, power and life. For no man's bodily eyes have ever seen God; but the word that is alive with God, and came from God into the world, has shown God to men. This is the true light, which lights every one who comes into the world.

CHAPTER II

THE ANGEL WITH THE LILY

AT the end of the ancient days there lived in the village of Nazareth in Galilee a man named Joseph, a carpenter, and his wife Mary, the daughter of Joachim and Anne. They were poor people, but both of them came of the house of King David. In spring, at the time of the year when day and night are equal, Mary went out at evening to draw water from the well; and as she stood by the well, she heard a voice that said to her, "Hail, full of grace!" She was troubled, and looked all ways, but saw no one; so she filled her pitcher and went home. But while she sat there in the dusk, Gabriel the archangel came down from heaven and entered the room in a great light. In his hand he carried a lily; and holding it out to her, he said, "Hail, highly favoured! the Lord is with you, and you are blessed among women." Mary was afraid, and wondered what might be the meaning of the angel's salutation. But he said, "Mary, do not fear: you have found favour with God, and shall bring forth a son; and you shall call his name

Jesus. God shall give him the throne of David, and his kingdom shall never have an end." Then Mary found her voice, and said, "How shall this be?" The archangel answered, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the Power of the Highest overshadow you; and the holy thing that shall be born of your body shall be the Son of God." Mary answered again, "Behold the Lord's handmaiden; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel and the light departed, and she was left in the dark alone.

CHAPTER III

THE VISION BY THE ALTAR

WHEN the summer days grew long, Mary went into the hill country to visit her cousin Elizabeth, the wife of Zacharias the priest. Zacharias and Elizabeth had been married for many years and were still childless, though they had often prayed for a son, that their name might not cease out of the land. But the autumn before this, Zacharias was serving in his turn in the temple; and as the custom was, he went into the sanctuary alone to burn incense before the golden altar. When he went into the holy place he

saw an angel standing on the right hand of the altar, who said, "Zacharias, your prayers are heard: you shall have a son, whose name shall be John; and he shall be great in God's sight, and shall make ready the people for One who shall come after him." Zacharias was troubled, and said, "How may I be sure of this?" The angel answered, "I am sent from the presence of God to tell you this; and because you do not believe it, you shall be dumb until the child is born." Meanwhile the people outside were wondering why Zacharias was so long in the temple; but when he came out, they perceived that he had seen a vision, for he made signs to them, but could not speak.

CHAPTER IV

THE PREPARER OF THE WAY

NOW when Mary came into the house, Elizabeth heard her voice in the doorway, and at the sound of her voice the baby within her leaped for joy; and she cried out to Mary, "O blessed among women, have you come to me, mother of my Lord?" But Mary was filled with gladness, saying, "My soul rejoices in God, for he has done great things for me, and all

generations from henceforth shall call me blessed." She stayed there with Elizabeth until the full time came, and Elizabeth gave birth to a son. When the baby was a week old, as the custom was, all the neighbours came to feast and rejoice with her: and at the feast Zacharias got his speech again, and gave thanks to God; and being filled with the Holy Spirit, he said, "This child shall go before the face of the Lord to prepare his way, and to guide men's feet into the way of peace; for now the dayspring from on high is come to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

CHAPTER V

THE WINTER JOURNEY

AT that time the Peace of Rome was over the whole world; and Augustus Cæsar the Emperor made a decree that a reckoning should be made of all the people of his dominion, each in his own city or village, and that every man should bring a penny in acknowledgment that he was subject to the Empire of Rome. Now Joseph had been born in Bethlehem of Judæa, the town of his ancestor, King David: so he and

Mary set forth to go to Bethlehem to be enrolled there, though now it was mid-winter, and the time for Mary's child to be born was close at hand. On Christmas Eve they came to Bethlehem. But so many other people had come on the same errand, that they found no room in the inn. Near the inn was a cave that had once belonged to the house of Jesse, the father of King David ; but now the house was long ago fallen into ruin, and the cave was used as a stable for cattle. There Joseph put Mary while he went into the town to find help for her. But before he could come back, Mary brought forth her son, the Lord Jesus Christ, while she was all alone in the cold stable in the dark. She wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the manger ; and the ox and the ass that were stabled in the cave looked on, and knelt down to worship the new-born child.

CHAPTER VI

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

ON the hills round Bethlehem there were shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night. As they kept watch

at midnight a great light shone out, and the angel of God came down to them out of heaven. At first they were afraid ; but the angel said, " Do not be afraid : I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be upon all people ; for this day there is born in the city of David your saviour, Christ the Lord." Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, who sang, " Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men." They sang this, and passed away still singing into heaven. When the angels were gone, and the light and the music had died away, there yet remained a great star in the winter sky, shining steadily above Bethlehem. Then the shepherds said one to another, " Come, let us go down to Bethlehem and see this thing which God has made known to us." So they made haste to go down from the hills, and by the light of the star they found the stable in the cave, with Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger, and they knelt down and worshipped him : for the shining of the star from overhead made the cave as bright as day.

CHAPTER VII

THE ANCIENT GODS

ON the day when the Lord Jesus Christ was born, the Sibyl in Rome looked from her tower into the sky at mid-noon and saw a circle of gold about the sun, and in the middle of it was the figure of a maiden holding a child in her arms. Then she called the Emperor out of his palace and showed it to him, saying, "This child is greater than you, O Emperor; therefore worship him." On that same day a ship sailing to Italy was becalmed at evening off the mouth of the river Acheloüs, and drifted with the tide towards the island of Paxos. About midnight a voice from the island called to the Egyptian pilot on board the ship three times by his name. At the third call he answered to his name, and the voice said, "When you come to Palodes, tell that Pan is dead." Next day they came to Palodes, and there the wind dropped again and the sea fell quite calm, so that they could not sail farther. Then the pilot cried from the stern of the ship towards the land, "Pan is dead": and before he had ceased speaking, there was heard along the

shore a great lamentation of many voices. For the reign of the ancient gods was over, and their life was done.

CHAPTER VIII

THE CONSOLATION OF THE PEOPLE

WHEN the forty days of the Purification were finished, Mary and Joseph brought the baby to the temple to present him to God, and to make the offering of two young pigeons for the first-born according to the law. In Jerusalem was an aged man named Simeon, who had lived far beyond the common years of human life waiting for the Consolation of God. For long ago, when he was turning the book of the prophets into the Greek language, he mused much over the place where it is told of the sign that God gave to King Ahaz, of a child to be born who should save Israel: and he had prayed that he might not die before he had seen God's chosen one, the Consolation of the People. Now when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple, Simeon came in also, led by the Holy Spirit; and taking the baby in his arms, he gave thanks to God. But as he

gave him back to his mother, he said to her, "Lo, this child shall cause many in Israel to fall and to rise again; and through your own soul also shall pierce the sword of the seven sorrows for his sake." Then he blessed Joseph and Mary, and saying, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation," he joyfully died.

CHAPTER IX

THE STAR IN THE EAST

IN the East were three kings, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, who were wizards, and sought into the secrets of the heavens. A prophecy had come down to them out of the ancient days, that a star should rise in the East when the fulness of the time was come; and the appearing of the star was to be for a sign that the King of kings was born on the earth. Every year the three kings ascended the Mountain of Victory, and watched in the sky for the shining of the star. On the night when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, a bright star shone out suddenly over the mountain peak, and burned with a steady brightness all night. Then the kings were glad, because

they knew that the King was born; and they made haste to go where the star should lead them, that they might find the King and worship him. So they made ready gifts, and set forth to travel through many countries, over mountains and rivers, across plains and seas; and the star kept always shining before them, until at last it led them to Judæa; and they began to ask of the people whom they met, "Where is he that is born King? for we have seen his Star in the East, and are come to worship him."

CHAPTER X

THE GIFTS OF THE KINGS

WORD of this came to Herod, king of Judæa: and being greatly troubled lest his own kingdom should be taken away from him by the child who was born a king, he sent for the three kings of the East secretly, and inquired of them at what time the star had first appeared. Then he sent them away, saying to them, "Search diligently until you have found the child born to be king, and then bring me word again, that I also may come and worship him." But in his heart he meant to kill him. As soon as the

three kings had come out of Herod's palace, the star appeared to them again which had led them from the East, and went shining before them, until it stood still over a house in Bethlehem. When they entered, they found the child there in the crib with his mother by him. They took off their crowns, and knelt before him; and opening the treasure that they had brought with them out of the East, they offered to him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Now gold is given for payment of tribute to kings, and frankincense for sacrifice to the gods, and myrrh for burial: and so the three kings did service to the child as Lord of earth and the living, and of heaven and the deathless, and of death and the dead.

CHAPTER XI

THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

THAT night the kings were warned by God in a dream not to go back to King Herod: therefore they took ship secretly, and returned to their own countries by another way. King Herod waited long for them to come and tell him where they had found the child born to be king ;

but they never came. Then he took counsel with the wisest of his priests, asking them where Christ should be born. They told him that it was written in the book of the prophet, "Out of Bethlehem shall come the Shepherd of the People." Then Herod sent soldiers to Bethlehem, with orders to kill all the children there under two years old. But no sooner had the three kings of the East departed, than an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said to him, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt: and stay there until I bring you a further word; for King Herod is seeking the child to kill him." Joseph rose in haste, and in the dead of night he saddled his ass and put Mary and her baby on it; and they stole out of Bethlehem in the darkness, the angel leading them on the way. That morning the soldiers came into Bethlehem, and killed all the children under two years old in the town and round it; and as far away as Ramah, through the silence of the hills, was heard the voice of mothers weeping and crying aloud, and refusing to be comforted, because their babies were dead.

CHAPTER XII

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

WHEN day broke, Mary and Joseph were already far away among the southern hills: and from the hills they took the desert road that runs through the long wastes of sand to Egypt. At the heat of noon they rested in a grove of trees that made shadow about a well, and all the trees of the grove bent down over the child as he lay asleep in his mother's arms. So they passed through the desert in safety, and came into Egypt to the city of Heliopolis. For hundreds of years afterwards the people of that town showed strangers a peach-tree that grew by the city gate, and told the story that when Mary and her child entered, that tree had suddenly burst all into flower; for even the trees and flowers, no less than the ox and ass in the stable, and all God's creatures, knew this child for their Lord. Joseph and Mary lived in Egypt until they heard that King Herod was dead; and then, at the bidding of the angel, they went back to their own country and the carpenter's shop at Nazareth.

CHAPTER XIII

THE BOY IN THE TEMPLE

WHEN Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph and Mary took him up with them to Jerusalem to keep the feast of the Passover there, as was the custom of their people. After the feast was over, they set forth to go home again with all the rest of their neighbours who had gone up with them. But the boy was left behind; and they had gone a whole day's journey on their way home before they missed him, for all the day they had thought that he was somewhere among the rest of their fellow-travellers. But at evening they searched for him everywhere among the company, and he was nowhere to be found. Next morning they went back to Jerusalem, and continued searching for him there for three days, until at last they found him in the temple, sitting among the ancient men who were learned in the law. He was listening to them and asking them questions; and they were all astonished by his wisdom. Mary ran to him, crying, "My son, why have you done this? Your father and I have sought you sorrowing." But he answered,

“Why did you seek me? did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?” Then he came away, and went back with them to Nazareth, and until he grew up to be a man he worked there in the carpenter’s shop, and obeyed his parents in everything. But always as he grew up he increased in wisdom; and his mother treasured up all his sayings in her heart, and pondered over them.

CHAPTER XIV

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

IN the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar the Emperor, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness; for now he was thirty years old, and ever since he grew up, he had lived in the wilderness like the ancient prophets, dressed in a coat of camel’s hair with a leathern girdle, and feeding on the locusts of the desert and the wild honey that he found among the rocks: and he passed through all the country about the river Jordan, preaching repentance and the forgiveness of sins. The people came out from the towns and followed him in crowds, confessing their sins; and he baptized

them in the water of the river. Then Jesus came also from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized by John; and as he came up out of the water, the heavens opened above him, and the Spirit of God, like a dove, descended and lit on him; and a voice was heard out of heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

CHAPTER XV

THE WITNESS OF JOHN

NOW the people all wondered in their hearts whether John were the Christ or not: and the Jews sent priests from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" but he said to them, "I am not the Christ." They asked him again, "What then? are you Elijah, or one of the old prophets?" and he answered, "No." "Who are you then?" they said: "for we must give an answer to those who sent us." He answered, "I am the Voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare a way for the Lord. I indeed baptize with water, but there stands one among you whom you do not know, one mightier than I, one who comes after me and is preferred before me, the lace of whose shoes I am not worthy to untie: he shall baptize with

the Holy Spirit and with fire." The next day Jesus came to John; and when he saw him coming, he said, "This is he of whom I said that one who comes after me is preferred before me. I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and resting on him: I saw, and I bear witness that this is the Son of God."

CHAPTER XVI

THE HILL OF EVIL COUNSEL

WHEN Jesus came up out of Jordan, he was led by the Spirit up into the mountains of the wilderness alone, and fasted there for forty days and forty nights. At the end of the forty days he was hungry; and the Enemy, the tempter of mankind, came to him, saying, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones may be made bread." He answered, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone." Then the tempter took him up into the holy city, and setting him on the parapet of the temple, said to him, "If you are the Son of God, fling yourself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee, and they shall bear thee up in their hands." Jesus answered, "It is

written also, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." So now the tempter took him away again, and setting him on a high mountain, showed him from it by his magic all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them in a single moment, and said to him, "All this power and glory I will give you (for it is mine), and it shall all be yours, if you will only fall down and worship me." But Jesus answered, "Leave me alone, O Enemy; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only." Then the tempter seeing that all his temptations were of no avail, departed from him. But angels came from heaven bringing him food, and he returned from the wilderness of the evil counsels in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and began to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God in the fields and cities by the lake.

CHAPTER XVII

THE FISHERMEN

AS Jesus walked on the shore of the lake, he saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, two lads of the town of Bethsaida, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen; and he

said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they forsook their nets and followed him. He went a little farther, and saw two other fisher lads, James and his brother John, sitting in their boat with their father and mending their nets. He called them likewise ; and they left their father and the hired servants in the boat, and went after him. The four stayed with him that night ; and the next day they set out to go with him to Cana, where he was bidden to a marriage-feast. On the way they met another townsman of Bethsaida called Philip ; and to him also Jesus said, "Follow me." Philip went to his fellow Nathanael, and finding him sitting under a fig-tree, he called him to come, saying, "We have found the Master of whom Moses and the prophets wrote ; he is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael answered, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth ?" Philip said, "Come and see" : and brought him to Jesus ; and they all went together to Cana, where a great company of guests was met for the marriage.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE WATER MADE WINE

AT the marriage-feast, while Jesus and his disciples and his mother Mary sat among the guests, word went round that there was no more wine : for the wine that the bridegroom had provided for the feast had all been drunk. Mary whispered to her son, "They have no wine." He answered, "My hour is not come yet." Then she turned to the servants and said, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were standing on the floor in the room six large stone jars, that were used for holding water for washing. In a little while Jesus said to the servants, "Fill these jars with water." They filled the jars up to the brim ; and then he said again to them, "Now draw out, and take what you have drawn to the master of the feast." So they dipped and drew out from the jars, and the water in them had become wine. The servants took a cup of the wine to the master of the feast, but did not tell him whence it came ; and when he tasted it, he praised it, and called out aloud to the bridegroom, "Others set forth

their good wine at first, and their worse after men have drunk well ; but you have kept your best wine until now."

CHAPTER XIX

THE LAKE AT MORNING

AS Jesus stood by the lake at morning, the people came crowding round him to hear the word of God. Close at hand two fishing-boats were moored in the lake, and the fishermen had come out of them at daybreak after fishing on the lake all night, and were cleaning their nets on the beach. One of the boats was Simon Peter's ; and Jesus went into it and asked Peter to thrust it out a little way from the shore, and then he sat in it and taught the people who stood on the land. When he had finished teaching them, he said to Peter, "Put out into deep water now, and let down your net." Peter answered, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing ; but at your bidding I will let down the net again." Then he and his man cast their net ; and as soon as it was cast, a great shoal of fish were inclosed in it, so that they could not haul it in, and it began to break under the weight of the

fish. They made signals to their partners in the other boat to come and help; and with their help they got the net up, and filled both boats so full of fish that they began to sink. So when they had got their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Jesus; and he went with them through all that countryside, healing the sick, and preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God.

CHAPTER XX

THE BRIDEGROOM'S FRIEND

JOHN was still baptizing those that came to him, by the wells of Ænon in the hill-country of the midland: but now fewer and fewer people sought him, for all men's eyes were turned on the new prophet, Jesus of Nazareth; and John's disciples came to him and said, "Master, he whom you baptized beyond Jordan baptizes now himself, and all men go to him." John answered them, "A man can receive nothing except what it pleases God to give him. He must increase, and I must decrease: I told you that I am not the Christ, but one sent before him to prepare his way." Also he spoke a parable to them, saying, "He who has the bride is the bridegroom;

but the bridegroom's friend stands beside him and is glad when he hears the bridegroom's voice ; this my joy therefore is fulfilled."

CHAPTER XXI

THE MESSAGE FROM PRISON

KING HEROD, the son of the murderer of the Innocents, feared John ; for he knew that he was a holy man. But his wife Herodias hated him, and wished to kill him ; and to please her, Herod sent John to prison, but would not let him be put to death. While he lay in prison, John grew weary for the Kingdom of God to come ; and he sent two of his disciples to find Jesus, and ask him, "Are you he that should come, or have we to wait for another yet?" They came to Jesus as he was healing the sick and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and said to him, "John Baptist has sent us to you, and bids us ask if you are he that should come, or have we to wait for another yet?" Jesus answered, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard ; how the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the sick are healed, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel

preached to them. Blessed is he who shall not be offended because of me." Then they went away: and he said to the people, "I tell you, among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

CHAPTER XXII

THE DANCE OF DEATH

NOW King Herod's birthday came, when he gave a supper to his lords and captains; and as they sat feasting, Salome, the daughter of Herodias, came in and danced before them so beautifully that Herod cried out to her, "Ask of me what you will and I will give it you, even to the half of my kingdom," and swore a great oath that he would make his promise good. Salome went to her mother, and said to her, "What shall I ask?" and Herodias said, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist." Salome went back to the banqueting-hall, where Herod still sat among the lords and captains, who all had heard the promise he made to her, and said, "Give me John the Baptist's head in a dish."

Then the king was very sorry ; but for his oath's sake, and for shame of being called a breaker of oaths, he would not deny her, and sent an executioner to the prison, who cut off John's head, and laying it in a dish, brought it in to Salome, and she took it and gave it to her mother, Queen Herodias.

CHAPTER XXIII

THE SOWER

BUT Jesus went on preaching to the people by the lake and on the hills. Now at that time he taught them many things in parables ; and he began thus, saying : " Listen. A sower went forth to sow ; and as he sowed, some of the seed fell by the wayside, and the birds of the air came and devoured it up. Some fell on stony places, where it had not much earth ; and because it had no depth of soil, it sprang up immediately : but when the sun was high, it was scorched, because it had no root, and soon it withered away. Some fell among weeds ; and the weeds grew up round it and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. But other seed, falling into

good soil, sprang up and increased, and brought forth fruit, some of it thirty, and some sixty, and some a hundredfold."

CHAPTER XXIV

THE HIDDEN MEANING

HIS disciples asked him afterwards, when they were alone, "What is the meaning of this parable?" He said, "I will tell you; for to you it is given to know the hidden things of the Kingdom of God, but they who are without the Kingdom are such of whom the prophet said, Seeing, they see not; and hearing, they do not understand. Listen, then, to the parable of the sower. The seed is the word of God. The seed that fell by the wayside are they who hear it and take no heed of it; then comes the Wicked One, and catches away the word that was sown in their hearts. The seed on the stony ground are they who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy, yet have no root in themselves, but change with the time; for when persecution or affliction comes for the word's sake, they are immediately offended, and cast it away. That which fell among weeds are they who, when

they have heard the word, go forth ; and the cares and pleasures of this world and the deceitfulness of riches entering in, choke the word, so that they bring no fruit to perfection. But that which fell on the good ground are they who, in their honest and good heart, keep the word that they have heard, and bring forth the fruit of a good life."

CHAPTER XXV

THE TARES IN THE WHEATFIELD

HE said also : " A certain man sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. So when the corn blades sprang up and flowered, the tares appeared also growing all among them. Then the man's servants came to him, and said, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field ? and how is it that it yields tares ? He answered them, An enemy has done this. Then, said they, shall we go into the field and pluck them out ? But he said, No ; for while you were plucking out the tares, you might root up the wheat also along with them. Let both grow together until harvest

time; and at harvest time I will say to my reapers, Gather the tares together first, and bind them in bundles to be burned, but carry the wheat into my barn."

CHAPTER XXVI

THE HARVESTERS OF GOD

THEN he sent the multitude away; and his disciples came and said to him, "Make plain to us the parable of the tares." He answered, "The man who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world. The good seed are the children of the Kingdom; and the tares are the children of the Wicked One. The enemy that sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares were gathered in bundles and burned, so it shall be at the end of the world: the Son of Man shall send his angels forth, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and all who do wicked deeds, and cast them into the furnace of fire in the place of wailing; and then the righteous shall shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

CHAPTER XXVII

THE INNER KINGDOM

NOW when they asked him when the Kingdom of God would come, he answered, saying: "The Kingdom of God is not here or there, and it does not come by men's looking for it; for the Kingdom of God is within you. So is the Kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground, and should sleep and rise by night and by day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he does not know how. For the earth brings forth fruit of herself: first the blade, then the ear, after that the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

CHAPTER XXVIII

THE HOUSE OF BIRDS

ALSO he spoke this parable, and said: "Whereunto shall we liken the Kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field: which

when it is sown, is less than all the seeds that are in the earth; but when it has been sown it grows up, and is the greatest among all herbs, and becomes a tree, and shoots out great branches, so that the birds of the air may come and lodge under the shadow of it."

CHAPTER XXIX

THE GREAT SUPPER

WHEN one of those who sat by Jesus heard these parables of the Kingdom, he said, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God." Jesus answered him: "A certain man made a great supper and invited many guests: and at supper time he sent his servant to say to those who were bidden, Come: for everything is ready. But they all with one consent began to make excuses. The first said, I have bought a piece of land, and I must needs go and see it; pray hold me excused. Another said, I have bought five pair of oxen, and am going to try them in harness; pray hold me excused. Another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So the servant came back and told his lord. Then the master

of the house was angry, and said to his servants, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the beggars and cripples, the lame and the blind. The servants went out into the streets, and gathered together all the people whom they found, both good and bad: then they came back, and said, Lord, it is done as you ordered, and yet there is room. The master answered them, Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled: for I tell you, not one of those who were invited shall taste of my supper."

CHAPTER XXX

THE RICH FOOL

ALSO he said: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of what he possesses. The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought within himself, What shall I do? for I have no place large enough to hold my goods. This is what I will do: I will pull down my storehouses and build larger ones, and there I will lay up all my goods, and I will

say to my soul, Soul, you have great riches laid up for many years ; take your ease ; eat, drink, and be merry. But God said to him, Fool, to-night your soul shall be required of you : then whose shall those things be which you have laid up ? Such is every one who hoards riches for himself, and is not rich in the sight of God. Lay up for yourselves riches in heaven : for where your treasure is, there your heart will be."

CHAPTER XXXI

THE TWO PRAYERS

THE disciples came to Jesus and said, "Master, teach us how to pray." He said : "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to pray in the churches and at the street corners that they may be seen by men : and do not use vain repetitions like the heathen, who think that they will be heard for their much speaking : and do not be like those who trust in their own goodness and despise others. Two men went to pray in the temple, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood forth by himself and prayed thus : God, I thank thee that I am not as other

men are, extortioners, thieves, adulterers, or even as yonder publican; I fast twice a week; I give the tenth part of my gains in charity. But the publican, standing back far off, would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but smote on his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you he went home more clean than the other in the sight of God. But do you, when you pray, pray after this manner: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever."

CHAPTER XXXII

THE STORM ON THE LAKE

AFTER Jesus had taught the people thus, he went on board a fishing-boat to cross the lake. A certain scholar came to him, saying, "Master, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has

nowhere to lay his head." So they set sail : but in mid-passage a great storm of wind came down upon the lake, and the waves beat upon the boat until it began to fill. But Jesus had fallen asleep on a cushion in the stern of the boat, and slept until his disciples came and awoke him, crying out, "Master, do you not care if we all are lost?" Then he rose, and rebuked the wind and the fury of the water, and said to the sea, "Peace ! be still." Immediately the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Then he said to them, "Why are you so fearful ? where is your faith ?" But they were amazed, and one said to another, "What kind of man is this, that even the winds and the seas obey him !"

CHAPTER XXXIII

THE MAN AMONG THE TOMBS

SO they crossed the lake safely, and came ashore at morning by a place of tombs near the town of Gadara. When they landed, the first person they met was a certain man of Gadara, who had for a long time been possessed with a troop of evil spirits. He wore no clothes

and never lived in a house, but went about naked and slept among the tombs ; and he was exceedingly fierce, so that people were afraid to pass by that way. He had often been chained up, but had always wrenched the chains asunder or broken the fetters in pieces ; and no one could tame him, but he was always, both by night and by day, on the hills or among the tombs, shrieking aloud and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus from far off, he ran and fell down before him, crying, " O Son of the Most High, I beseech you in God's name, do not torment me before my time." Then Jesus commanded the evil spirits to come out of him. A good way off there was a herd of about two thousand swine feeding on the hill. The madness that left the man rushed into the swine ; and immediately the whole herd, running violently to the edge of the cliff, plunged into the lake and were drowned. The swineherds ran away into the town, and told what had happened ; and when the townspeople came out in crowds to see, they found the man sitting by Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. When Jesus went aboard the boat again to go back across the lake, the man begged that he might go with him. But Jesus

would not take him, and said, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things God has done for you in his mercy."

CHAPTER XXXIV

THE TOUCH IN THE CROWD

WHEN they landed on the other side of the lake, a crowd of people were waiting for Jesus on the beach, and a ruler called Jairus came forward, and falling at his feet, said, "My little daughter lies at the point of death ; I beseech you, come and lay your hands on her that she may be healed, and she shall live." Jesus had pity on him, and went with him ; and the crowd followed them. Now in the crowd there was a woman who had been very ill for twelve years, and had spent all her money on doctors ; yet none of them could cure her, and she grew no better, but worse. She had heard of Jesus healing the sick, and thought to herself, "If I may but touch his garment, I might be made well." So she got behind him in the crowd, and reaching out, touched the border of his garment, and immediately she felt that she was cured. But Jesus knew that virtue had gone out from him, and

turning round, he said, "Who touched my clothes?" The crowd was close all round him; and when no one else answered, Peter said, "Master, the whole crowd are thronging and pressing on you; how can you ask who touched you?" But Jesus still looking back, said again, "Some one has touched me; for I feel that virtue has gone out from me." Then the woman came trembling, and fell down before him, and told what she had done, and how that one touch had healed her. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, be of good comfort, and go in peace; your faith has made you whole."

CHAPTER XXXV

THE HOUSE OF WAILING

WHILE he spoke these words, a messenger came running from the ruler's house, and said to him, "Do not trouble the Master any further; your daughter is dead." Then the crowd dispersed, leaving the ruler alone with Jesus and his disciples. But Jesus said to the ruler, "Do not be afraid: only believe;" and they went on to his house. When they came in, the house was full of mourners wailing and crying.

Jesus said to them, "Why do you weep and make all this ado? the girl is not dead, she is asleep." They laughed at him, for they had seen the girl lying lifeless; but he put them all out except the girl's father and mother and three of his own disciples; and going with them into the room where the girl lay, he took her by the hand and said to her, "Maiden, arise." Immediately her spirit came to her again, and she rose up. Her parents were so astonished, that they did not know what to do: but he told them to keep quiet and say nothing about it, but give her something to eat.

CHAPTER XXXVI

THE CHOOSING OF THE TWELVE

WHEN Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with pity for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and were full of weariness and sorrow: and he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Then he chose twelve from among them, to whom he gave power to cast out evil spirits and to heal all kinds of sickness and disease. Six of them were those whom he had

first chosen and called to follow him from the village on the lake ; namely, Simon the son of Jonah, who was surnamed Peter, and his brother Andrew ; James the Greater, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, whom Jesus loved the most of all his disciples ; Philip of Bethsaida, and his friend Nathanael, who was also called Bartholomew. The other six were these : James the Less, the son of Alpheus, who was a near kinsman of Jesus ; Matthew the tax-gatherer, whom he called to follow him from the table where he sat taking the taxes ; Thomas the twin ; Jude, whose surname was Thaddeus ; Simon the Zealot ; and Judas Iscariot, the pursebearer of the twelve, who also was the traitor.

CHAPTER XXXVII

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

THESE twelve Jesus now chose and sent out, saying to them : “ Do not go into the way of the heathen, but go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and tell them that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Give as freely as you have received : heal the sick, cure the lepers, cast out devils, raise the dead. I send you forth like

lambs in the midst of wolves ; be therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your purses, nor a bag, nor two coats. Into whatever city or village you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay with him until you leave the place. He who receives you receives me : whoever gives but a cup of cold water to drink to any of these my little ones, shall not go unrewarded. You shall be hated, and brought before governors and kings for my sake ; but do not fear them. Two sparrows are sold for a farthing, and not one of them falls to the ground without your Father in heaven seeing it ; and you are worth more than many sparrows. Therefore do not fear ; for whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me ; but whoever shall bear witness for me before men, I will also bear witness for him before my Father in heaven." So the twelve departed, and went through the towns of Galilee, healing the sick and preaching the good news of the Kingdom.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

THE FEAST IN THE DESERT

WHEN the twelve came back to Jesus, they told him of all that they had done and taught: and he said to them, "Come with me into a desert place, and rest a while." But when the people heard where he had gone, thousands of them came afoot out of all the towns, and gathered round him to hear his teaching; and he taught them until the day was far spent. Then his disciples said to him, "It is nearly night, and this is a desert place; send the people away now, that they may go to the villages round about and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat." But he said, "They need not go: do you give them food." They answered, "How can we feed them? we have no food with us here but five barley loaves and a couple of fish." Jesus said, "Bring them to me." Then he made all the multitude sit down in rows on the grass of the hillside, and took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed the food, and gave it to his disciples, and they dis-

tributed it among the people : and after all had eaten their fill, twelve baskets full were taken up of the fragments that were left over.

CHAPTER XXXIX

THE WATER-SPIRIT

THEN Jesus told his disciples to get into their boat and cross the lake again, while he sent the people away ; and when they were all gone, he went up to a mountain top and prayed. As night fell, the disciples got into their boat ; but the wind was against them, so that they could not use the sail, but had to labour hard with the oars. So they toiled on rowing all night, until just before dawn Jesus himself seemed to come to them walking on the water. When they saw him they were troubled and cried out in fear, thinking it was a spirit of the lake. But he spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer ; it is I : do not be afraid." He came into the boat, and immediately the wind ceased, and they passed over and came to the land where they desired to be.

CHAPTER XL

THE GREEK WOMAN

FROM thence Jesus went on a journey to the borders of Tyre and Sidon ; and a Greek woman, a Phœnician by race, came to him and fell down at his feet, crying, "Have pity on me, O Master : my little daughter is grievously vexed with an evil spirit." For a while he did not answer her a word ; and the disciples, thinking that he did not mean to help her, said to him, "Send her away ; for she keeps crying after us." When the woman heard them, she cried out all the more, "Lord, help me." Then he said to her, "I am sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel : let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's food and cast it to the dogs." She answered, "Yes, Lord : yet the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Jesus said, "O woman, your faith is great : go your way ; for this saying let it be as you desire." Then the woman went home, and found her child lying in bed sound and well.

CHAPTER XLI

THE VISION ON THE HILL

THEN Jesus went up to Mount Lebanon and the springs of Jordan; and after six days, he took Peter and James and John up to a solitary place on a high mountain, and while they were there, he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes glittered and were as white as the light; and the forms of two men appeared in a glory, like the two great prophets of the ancient time, Moses and Elijah, and talked with him of a death that he should die at Jerusalem. While they were yet speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased: hear him." When the three disciples entered into the cloud and heard the voice, they were afraid, and fell on their faces in a swoon. When they came to themselves and looked up, the cloud and the glory and the two prophets had vanished, and they were alone with Jesus on the mountain. He touched them, saying, "Rise up, and do not be afraid:" and they came down from the

mountain ; but he charged them to tell no one of this vision until he should have died and risen again from the dead.

CHAPTER XLII

THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM

AFTER this the mother of James and John came to Jesus with her two sons, and doing reverence to him, prayed him to grant her a favour ; and when he asked what it was she desired, she said, "Grant that these my two sons may sit by you, the one on your right hand and the other on your left, in your kingdom." Jesus said, "You do not know what it is you are asking. Can you drink of the cup that I must drink of?" They answered, "Yes, we can." "You shall indeed drink of that cup," said he ; "but to sit on my right hand and on my left in the glory of the Kingdom is not mine to give." Then the other disciples were very angry with James and John. But Jesus said to them : "You know that the great among the heathen have lordship over them ; but it shall not be so among you. Whoever will be great among you shall be your servant : even as I myself came not to

be served, but to serve, and to give my life for others." Then he called a little child, and taking it in his arms, set it down among them, saying, "Whoever shall humble himself like this little child is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven; and unless you become like little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom."

CHAPTER XLIII

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

THEN Peter said to him, "Master, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? until seven times?" Jesus answered: "Not until seven times, but until seventy times seven. For the Kingdom of Heaven is likened to a certain king, who took account from his servants; and on the reckoning day one of them was brought before him who owed him ten thousand talents, which he could not pay. So his lord gave orders that he should be sold for a slave, with his wife and children and all that he had, that payment might be made. But the servant fell down before him and besought him, crying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you. Then his lord was moved

with compassion for him, and released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out; and finding one of his fellow-servants who owed him a hundred pence, he caught him by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe. His fellow-servant fell down at his feet and besought him, crying, Have patience with me, and I will pay you: and he would not listen, but dragged him away to prison until he should pay the debt. When the other servants saw this done, they were grieved, and came and told their lord. Then his lord called him, and said, O wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt when you besought me. Should you not have had pity on your fellow-servant, as I had pity on you? And his lord was angry with the unmerciful servant, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that he owed. So shall my heavenly Father do to you, if you do not from your heart every one forgive his brother."

CHAPTER XLIV

THE INHOSPITABLE VILLAGE

WHEN the end of his days was drawing near, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem : and as he passed through Samaria, he sent messengers to a village to ask for a lodging for the night ; but the villagers would not receive him, because his face was turned towards Jerusalem : for the Jews and the Samaritans had no dealings with one another. When his disciples knew this, they were very angry with the people of the village ; and James and John said to him, “ Lord, shall we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, as the old prophets did ? ” But he rebuked them, saying, “ You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. The Son of Man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” And they went on to another village.

CHAPTER XLV

THE POOL OF THE FIVE PORCHES

BY the sheep-market in the city of the Jews there was a pool with five porches opening on to it, which the people of the city called the House of Mercy. For an angel, as it was said, went down at certain times into the pool and troubled the water; and whatever sick man was the first to step into the pool after the angel had touched the water was cured of his disease, whatever it might be; so that in all the five porches there were always lying on beds a great many sick people, or blind, or lame, or withered, waiting for the troubling of the water. Among them was a poor man who had been a cripple for nearly forty years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and heard how long he had lain helpless, he asked him whether he did not wish to be made well. The sick man answered, "Sir, I cannot walk, and I have no friends to carry me down into the pool when the water is troubled; but some one else always gets in before me while I am trying to creep down." Jesus had pity on him, and said, "Rise, take up your bed and

walk." Immediately he rose, and took up his bed and walked; and Jesus said to him, "See, you are made whole : sin no more, lest a worse thing come to you."

CHAPTER XLVI

THE MERCY OF THE MASTER

AS Jesus sat in the temple teaching the people, they brought to him a woman who had been taken in adultery, and setting her in the middle, they said, "Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. The law says that such women are to be stoned. What do you say?" For they hoped that he would tell them to break the law. But he stooped down and began to draw on the ground, as if he did not hear them. When they went on asking him, he rose up and looked at them, saying, "Let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone at her." Then he stooped down again and went on drawing on the ground; and they, being convicted by their own conscience (for they all knew that they had often sinned themselves), slipped away in silence one by one, the oldest among them going first, until all had gone. Then Jesus

rose up again ; and seeing no one left but the woman, who was still standing where they had set her, he asked her, "Woman, where are your accusers ? Has no man condemned you ?" She answered "No man, Lord." Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you : go away, and sin no more."

CHAPTER XLVII

THE WELL IN THE VALLEY

AS Jesus passed through Samaria on his way back from Jerusalem into Galilee, he came at noon to the well called Jacob's Well, in a field by the roadside below the town of Sychar. The disciples went up the hill into the town to buy food ; and Jesus, being wearied with the journey, sat down by the well until they came back. While he was resting there, a woman came out of the town to draw water, and he asked a drink from her. She said, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan ; why do you ask a drink from me ?" Jesus answered, "If you only knew who I am, you would ask drink from me, and I would give it you." "You have no vessel to draw with," she said, "and the well is deep : how would you

get your water?" Jesus answered her, "He who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; but he who drinks of the water that I give shall never thirst." "Sir," said the woman, "give me of that water, that I may not be thirsty again, or have to come back every day to draw water from the well."

CHAPTER XLVIII

THE INVISIBLE BREAD

THEN Jesus said to the woman, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," said she. "You say the truth," he answered; "for the man with whom you live is not your husband." "Sir," said the woman, "I see that you are a prophet. But you worship in Jerusalem; we and our fathers have always worshipped here on the mountain." Jesus answered, "O woman, the time is at hand when God shall be worshipped neither here nor there, but wherever his true worshippers shall pray to him." The woman said, "That will be when Christ the Lord's Anointed comes." Jesus said to her, "I who talk with you am he." Then she left her water-pot by the well, and going back into the town,

said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me all the things that ever I did : is not this the Christ?" Meanwhile the disciples came back with food, and begged Jesus to eat. But he said, "I have food to eat that you do not know of: my meat and drink is to do the will and finish the work of him who sent me."

CHAPTER XLIX

THE PERILOUS ROAD

A CERTAIN lawyer came to Jesus and asked, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said, "What is written in the law? how do you read in it?" He answered, "It is written in the law, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbour as thyself." Jesus said to him, "You have answered rightly: do this, and you shall live." But the lawyer, wishing to justify himself, said, "But who is my neighbour?" Then Jesus said, "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among thieves, who stripped him and wounded him, and went off leaving him half dead. By chance a priest came down that way; and when he saw the man lying by the

road naked and bleeding, he passed by on the other side. A little afterwards, a Levite going by came and looked at him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan riding along the road, when he saw the man, had pity on him; and dismounting, he went to him and bound up his wounds, and set him on his own horse and carried him to an inn. He took care of him there until the next day; and when he left in the morning, he gave money to the innkeeper, saying, Take good care of him, and whatever you spend more than this, I will repay you when I next come back. Which of those three do you think was neighbour to the man who fell among thieves?" The lawyer answered, "The one who showed mercy to him." Jesus said, "Go you and do likewise."

CHAPTER L

THE LOST FOUND

THE rulers of the Jews murmured against Jesus because he received sinners who came to him, and went to their houses. Then he spoke a parable to them, saying: "What man among you who has a hundred sheep, if he lose

one of them, does not leave the ninety and nine on the hill and go after the lost one until he finds it? and when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing; and when he comes home, calling together his friends and neighbours, he says to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost. So likewise there shall be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety and nine good people that need no repentance. Or what woman who has ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, does not light a candle and sweep the house, and search diligently until she finds it? and when she has found it, she calls to her friends and neighbours, Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece of silver which I had lost. Even so there is joy in the Presence among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

CHAPTER LI

THE FAR COUNTRY

"A CERTAIN man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that is my inheritance. So he divided all that he had, and

gave the younger son his portion. Not long afterwards the younger son gathered all his goods together and went on his travels into a far country; and there he wasted his fortune in riotous living. When he had spent it all, there came a great famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then that he might not perish with hunger, he took service with a citizen of that country, who sent him into the fields to feed swine. But he got neither food nor fee, so that for hunger he was ready to gnaw the husks that the swine fed upon; and when he came to himself he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, while I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, and am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants. So he arose, and went back to his father."

CHAPTER LII

THE ELDER SON

“**B**UT when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had pity on him ; and running out, he fell on his neck and kissed him. Then the son began to say, Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, and am no longer worthy to be called your son. But his father called to his servants, Bring forth the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet ; and fetch the fatted calf and kill it, that we may make a feast and be merry ; for this my son was dead and is alive again ; he was lost and is found. So they began to be merry. Now the elder son was out working in the fields : and when he came home at evening, he heard the sound of music and dancing as he drew near the house. So he called one of the servants and asked him what this meant. The servant said, Your brother is come home ; and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound. When he heard this, the elder son was very angry, and would not go in. His

father came out to him and begged him to go in. But he answered, Lo, these many years I have worked for you and never disobeyed you: yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends; but now, as soon as this son of yours, who has devoured your wealth with harlots, comes back, you kill the fatted calf for him. His father said, Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours: but it was fit that we should make merry and be glad; for your brother was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

CHAPTER LIII

THE ALABASTER BOX

SIX days before the feast of the Passover, Jesus came to the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem, and lodged there in the house of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead, and of his two sisters Martha and Mary. There they made a supper for him; and while Martha was busy preparing it, Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening to his words. Afterwards, while they sat at supper, Mary took an alabaster box full of ointment of spikenard, very precious, and

anointed the feet of Jesus with it, and wiped them with her hair : and the house was filled with the perfume of the spikenard. Then some of those who sat at supper were angry with her, murmuring among themselves : and Judas Iscariot (he who was the traitor) said aloud, "To what purpose is this waste ? for this ointment might have been sold for three hundred pieces of silver and given to the poor." He said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and stole out of the purse that he carried for Jesus and the disciples. But Jesus said, "Let her alone. She has done well ; why do you trouble her ? The poor you have with you always, and may give to them whenever you will ; but me you will not have with you always. I tell you, wherever the gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this thing she has done shall be told for a memorial of her."

CHAPTER LIV

THE NARROW GATE

A CERTAIN young man came running to Jesus, and knelt down and asked him, "Good master, what shall I do to win eternal life?" Jesus answered, "You know the commandments, Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honour your father and mother." "Master," said he, "I have kept all these from my youth up." Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said: "Yet you lack one thing: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Jesus looked round among his disciples, and said, "Children, how hard it is for those who have riches to enter into the Kingdom of God!" Peter answered him, "Lo, we have left all and followed you." Then Jesus said, "Indeed there is no man who has left house or parents or kinsfolk or wife and children for

my sake and the Kingdom of God's sake who shall not receive a hundredfold in this world, with persecutions, and in the world to come, eternal life. But strait is the gate and narrow is the road to life: and many who are the first shall be last, and the last shall be first."

CHAPTER LV

THE DAY'S WAGES

"FOR the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who was a householder, who went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard; and when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into the vineyard. About three hours later he went out again and saw other labourers standing in the market-place, and said to them, Go you also into my vineyard, and I will give you what is right. So they went into the vineyard. He went out again at midday, and again in the middle of the afternoon, and did likewise; and about an hour before sunset he went out and found some labourers still in the market-place; and he said to them, Why do you stand here all day idle? They said, Because no man has

hired us. He said to them, Go you also into my vineyard; and you shall have what is right. At the end of the day, the lord of the vineyard said to his steward, Call the labourers and give them their wages, beginning with the last and going on to the first. So those who had been hired an hour before came up; and they received every man a penny. Then those who had been hired in the morning came, expecting to receive more. But they also received every man a penny. Then they began to murmur against the householder, and to say, These last have wrought only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and heat of the day. But the lord of the vineyard answered one of them, Friend, I do you no wrong: did you not agree with me for a penny? I choose to give to this last even as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with my own? is your eye evil because I am good? Even so the last shall be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few are chosen."

CHAPTER LVI

THE TEN POUNDS

WHEN Jesus drew near Jerusalem, he spoke another parable for those who thought that the Kingdom of God would come immediately. He said therefore: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom and return. So he called his ten servants, and handed over ten pounds to them, saying, Trade with these until I come. Now when he had received his kingdom and returned, he commanded the servants to whom he had given the money to be called before him, that they might give account of it. The first servant came, and said, My lord, your pound has gained ten pounds. He answered, Well done, good servant: because you have been faithful in a little thing, be governor over ten cities. The second servant came, and said, My lord, your pound has gained five pounds. He answered, Be you likewise governor over five cities. Then another servant came carrying a folded cloth, and said, My lord, here is your pound, which I have kept wrapped up in a cloth, fearing you, because I knew you for a hard man,

who take up where you did not lay down, and reap where you had not sown. But his lord said, Out of your own mouth I will judge you, wicked servant. You knew me for a hard man, you say, who take up where I did not lay down, and reap where I did not sow. Why then did you not put my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have my own back with interest? Take his pound (he said to those who stood by), and give it to him who has ten pounds. My lord, they said, he has ten pounds already. I tell you, answered the king, to every one who has, shall be given; and from him who has not, shall be taken away even what he thinks he has."

CHAPTER LVII

THE JOYFUL ENTRY

NOW Jesus drew near Jerusalem; and when he was come to the olive-orchards on the hill, opposite the city, he sent forward two of his disciples, saying, "Go into the village over against you. As soon as you enter it you will find a she-ass tied, and beside her a colt on which no one has ridden yet. Untie him and bring him here: and if any one asks you why you are

taking him away, say that the Master needs him." So the two disciples went to the village ; and they found the ass and the colt tied up by the door of a house in a place where two roads met. As they were untying the colt, some of the villagers who were standing about said, "What are you doing with him?" But when they answered, "The Master needs him," no one hindered them ; and they brought the colt to Jesus. Then he rode down across the valley and up into Jerusalem. Before and behind him there went a great crowd ; some of them spread their clothes on the ground before him, and others cut down branches from the trees and strewed them on the road ; and the whole crowd kept chanting verses of the song that was made for the processions of the ancient kings when they went up to the temple, and that begins, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever." So when they came up into the city through the Golden Gate the singing and shouting were heard all through Jerusalem ; and when people asked, "Who is this?" all the crowd cried out, "This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth in Galilee."

CHAPTER LVIII

THE WICKED HUSBANDMEN

SO they all went up into the temple ; and there, as he was healing the sick and teaching the people, the chief priests and councillors of the Jews came to him in great anger, asking, "By what authority is it that you do those things?" But he said to them: "Listen to a parable. A certain householder planted a vineyard, and set a hedge about it, and dug a place for the winepress, and built a tower in it, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. When the time of vintage drew near, he sent a servant to his vineyard to receive his rent from the husbandmen. But when he came they caught him and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. Then he sent another servant ; but they threw stones at him, and wounded him in the head. Afterwards he sent other servants ; and they too were beaten or stoned, and some of them killed. Now he had one only son, his well-beloved : and last of all he sent him, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw him, they said among themselves, This is

the heir ; come, let us kill him, and his inheritance shall be ours : and they caught him and killed him, and threw his dead body over the wall of the vineyard. When the lord of the vineyard comes, what will he do to these husbandmen ? ” They answered, “ He will miserably destroy those wretches, and let out his vineyard to other husbandmen. ” Then Jesus said, “ Even so the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to others : ” and they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them, but did not dare to touch him, because they were afraid of a riot among the people.

CHAPTER LIX

THE TEN VIRGINS

AS he left the temple, one said to him, “ Master, what huge stones these are, and what glorious buildings ! ” He answered, “ Do you see these great buildings ? I tell you, there shall not be left of them one stone standing upon another when the end comes. ” Then his disciples asked him, “ When shall that be ? ” He answered, “ To you and to all I say this, Watch ; for at an hour when he is not looked for the Son of Man

shall come. Then the Kingdom of Heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom ; and five of them were wise, and five foolish. The foolish virgins took their lamps, but brought no oil with them ; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. The bridegroom delayed his coming so long that they had all dropped asleep, when at midnight a cry was heard, The bridegroom comes ; go out to meet him ! Then all those virgins started up and began to trim their lamps ; and the foolish virgins said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise virgins answered, Not so ; for there would not be enough for us and for you ; go to the oil-sellers and buy oil for yourselves. So while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage-feast : and the door was shut. A little after the other virgins came, crying, Lord, lord, open the door for us ! But he answered from within, I tell you I do not know you. Watch therefore : for you do not know the day nor the hour when the Son of Man shall come."

CHAPTER LX

THE PARTING OF THE WAYS

“**W**HEN the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, he shall sit on the throne and all nations shall be gathered before him : and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats, setting the sheep on his right hand, and the goats on his left. Then the King shall say to those on his right hand, Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world : for I was hungry, and you gave me food ; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink ; I was a stranger, and you took me in ; I was naked, and you clothed me ; I was sick, and you visited me ; I was in prison, and you comforted me. But the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink ? when did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you ? or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you ? And the King shall answer again and say to them, Inasmuch as you have done it

to the least of these my brothers, you have done it to me. Then also he shall say to those on his left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire : for I was hungry, and you gave me no food ; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink ; I was a stranger, and you did not take me in ; naked, and you clothed me not ; sick and in prison, and you did not visit me. Then they too shall answer him, saying, Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger, or naked or sick or in prison, and did not succour you ? But he shall say to them, Inasmuch as you did it not to any one of the least of these, you did it not to me. And they shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHAPTER LXI

THE MAN WITH THE WATER-PITCHER

THE next day was the feast of the Passover, when the lamb had to be killed in every household, and the feast kept that night with roast flesh and unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Peter and John came to Jesus, where he lodged on the hill of the olive-gardens, and

asked him, "Where do you wish us to prepare our feast?" He said, "Go into the city: when you have entered it, you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him; and where he goes into a house, go in after him and tell the man of the house that you have a message to him from the Master: then say to him these words from me: My time is at hand; where is the guest-chamber? for I will keep the feast in your house with my disciples. Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared; make ready for us there." Peter and John went into the city, and met the man, and found the house just as Jesus had said: and there they made ready; and at evening Jesus came with the rest of the disciples, and they all sat down to supper.

CHAPTER LXII

THE THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER

THE day before, the chief priests and rulers of the Jews had met in the palace of the high priest Caiaphas, to consult what should be done with Jesus. For they said, "This man does many wonders; if we let him alone, all men will

believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy this city and nation." But Caiaphas said, "Consider this, that it is better for one man to die than for all the people to perish." Then they resolved to put Jesus to death. But they said, "We must take him by craft and in secret, or there will be an uproar among the people." Now the Tempter entered the heart of Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve; and he went to the chief priests, and said, "What will you give me, if I deliver him up to you?" Then they were glad, and agreed with him for thirty pieces of silver, and he promised to betray him into their hands in secret when he was alone. But with the money they gave him he meant to buy a field called the Potter's Field, outside the city wall.

CHAPTER LXIII

THE TRAITOR

SO now while they sat at supper, Jesus looked at them, and said, "Of a truth I tell you, one of you shall betray me." They were amazed, and looked one at another, wondering of which of them he spoke; and several of them said,

“Master, is it I?” He answered, “It is one of the twelve that eat with me out of the same dish. I go indeed as is fore-ordained; but woe to him by whom I am betrayed: good were it for that man if he had never been born.” Then Peter made a sign to John, who sat next Jesus and leaned his head on his breast, to ask who it should be of whom the Master spoke. John said in a low voice from where he was, “Lord, who is it?” and Jesus answered him in a low voice, “It is he to whom I shall give a sop when I have dipped it.” Then, dipping a sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, saying as he gave it, “What you do, do quickly.” But the rest of the disciples did not know what he meant; for some of them thought, because Judas was the purse-bearer, that Jesus meant to say to him, “Buy what we have need of against the feast”: and others, that he meant, “Give something to the poor.” So he, when he had received the sop, went out immediately: and it was night.

CHAPTER LXIV

THE LAST SUPPER

THEN Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, and breaking it, gave a piece to each of the disciples, saying, "This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In like manner he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you": and they all drank of it. Then he said, "I have longed to eat this supper with you; for I shall not eat bread or drink wine with you again until the Kingdom of God has come. Children, it is but a little while more that I am with you. Now I give you a new commandment, to love one another as I have loved you. Do not be troubled at heart because I go away; for I go to prepare a place for you, and will come again." Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "I go where you cannot follow me now; but you shall follow me afterwards." "Lord," said Peter, "why cannot I follow you now? I am ready to go with you into prison or to death." Jesus

answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows you will have thrice over denied that you know me."

CHAPTER LXV

THE OLIVE-GARDEN

THEN after they had sung the psalm *In exitu*, they left the house, and going out at the city gate, took the road across the valley to the hill of the olive-gardens. But when they came to an olive-orchard in the valley, called Gethsemane, Jesus said to them, "Sit down here, while I pray." Then he took Peter and James and John with him, and went into the orchard; and a great shuddering came over him, and he said to the three, "My soul is sorrowful unto death: stay you here, and watch with me." Going a little further into the orchard, he fell on the ground and prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: yet not as I will, but as thou wilt." After a while he returned to the three, and found them all asleep. "What!" said he, "could you not watch with me one hour? watch, and pray." Then he left them again, and going about a stone's throw off,

knelt down and prayed a second time, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass from me except I drink it, thy will be done."

CHAPTER LXVI

THE KISS OF JUDAS

THEN an angel came from heaven to give him strength; and he rose, and coming back to his disciples, said to them, "The hour is come. Rise, let us be going: behold, the traitor is at hand." While he spoke, there were lights and voices in the orchard, and the clash of swords: and a band of armed men with lanterns and torches came through the olives; and before them came Judas Iscariot the traitor. Now Judas had given them a sign, saying, "Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast." So he came straight up to Jesus, and saying, "Hail, Master," he kissed him. But Jesus only said, "Friend, was it for this you came?" Peter drew his sword and struck at one of the men, a servant in the house of Caiaphas; but Jesus said to him, "Put up your sword into the sheath; shall I not drink the cup that my Father has given me?" Then standing

forth, he said to the armed men, "Whom do you seek?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." "I am he," Jesus said: "let these others go their way." Then the captain and the armed men seized Jesus and bound him; and the disciples all forsook him, and fled.

CHAPTER LXVII

THE FIRE IN THE COURTYARD

WHEN the captain and the armed men had bound Jesus, they led him away to the house of Caiaphas, where the council of the Jews were all assembled by torchlight. But Peter followed them far off, that he might see the end. When he came to the gate of the courtyard he stood outside; and the maid who kept the door, seeing him there, said to him, "Are you not one of the man's disciples?" "I am not," said he; and she let him in. Now Jesus stood bound in the hall of Caiaphas, while the council questioned him and called false witnesses to bear witness against him. But in the courtyard the servants and officers had kindled a fire in a brasier to keep themselves warm: for it was a cold spring night; and Peter stood among them

and warmed himself. After a while one of them said to Peter, "You are one of them too:" and again he denied with an oath, saying, "I do not know what you mean." So they fell to talking of other things. But about an hour later, towards dawn, another man came up to Peter and said, "Fellow, your speech betrays you; you are certainly one of those Galilæans who went about with Jesus of Nazareth." Then Peter, in terror of his life, began to curse and swear, and said, "I do not even know the man." While the words were yet on his lips, the cock crew: and Jesus turned, and looked at Peter through the open door. Then Peter remembered how he had boasted, and how Jesus had told him, "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times:" and he went out, and wept bitterly.

CHAPTER LXVIII

THE FIELD OF BLOOD

NOW morning broke: and the council of the Jews rose out of the hall of Caiaphas, and led Jesus away, still bound, to the palace of Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Jerusalem, that he might be sentenced to death.

But when Judas who had betrayed him saw him being led away to death, he repented too late of what he had done; and fetching the thirty pieces of silver for which he had sold his master, he took them into the temple and offered them back to the priests, saying, "I have sinned, and betrayed the innocent." They answered, "What is that to us? see you to that." Then he flung down the thirty pieces of silver on the temple pavement, and went away in despair: and going out of the city, he hanged himself from a tree in the Potter's Field. The priests took the thirty pieces of silver and debated what to do with them: for they said, "We may not put this money into the treasury; for it is the price of blood." At last they determined to buy the Potter's Field with the money, to be a place to bury strangers in: and the name of the field was changed, and it was called the Field of Blood.

CHAPTER LXIX

THE JUDGMENT-SEAT

EARLY in the morning Pilate came out of his palace, and sat down in the seat of judgment on the paved terrace in front of the palace. There Jesus was brought bound before him, and he asked what accusation they brought against him. So they began to accuse him, saying, "This man is a rebel against our lord the Emperor, and forbids the people to obey him, saying that he himself is Christ and a King." Then Pilate had him taken into the palace to be questioned in private, and asked him, "Are you king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of yourself, or did others tell it you of me?" "Am I a Jew?" said Pilate: "your own people have brought you before me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. I came into the world to bear witness to the truth." "What is truth?" said Pilate; and he asked him no more questions, but went out again to the seat of judgment. As he took his seat, a message was brought to him from his wife: "Have nothing to do with this good

man ; for I have had a terrible dream about him to-night." Now it was the custom of the Romans, that every year the governor of Jerusalem released one prisoner, whom the people named, at the feast of the Passover ; and the crowd in the street before the castle began to raise a cry for the custom to be kept. Then Pilate said, " Is it your pleasure that I should release your king ? for I find no fault in him."

CHAPTER LXX

THE KING OF THE JEWS

THERE was then in Jerusalem a famous robber, called Jesus Barabbas. He had been arrested and sentenced to death for sedition and murder, and now he lay in prison awaiting execution. When Pilate asked the people whom they would have released, they all cried out, being moved to do so by the priests, " Not this one, but Barabbas." " Then what shall I do," said Pilate, " with the man whom you call king of the Jews ?" They shouted, " Crucify him !" Then Pilate ordered Barabbas to be released, and said, " As for this king of the Jews, I will chastise him and let him go." So the Roman soldiers tied Jesus

to a pillar in the castle and scourged him ; and then they threw a purple robe over him, and plaited a crown of thorns and set it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand for a sceptre. Then they brought him forth to the people wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns ; and Pilate said to the people, " Behold your king ! " But they cried out more fiercely than before, " Crucify him, crucify him ! we have no king but Cæsar." At last, when the tumult still grew, Pilate was afraid to withstand the people any longer ; and calling for water, he washed his hands before the whole people, saying, " I am innocent of the blood of this just man : see you to it." They all cried out, " His blood be upon us and on our children." Then Pilate handed him over to be crucified ; and now it was close on noon.

CHAPTER LXXI

THE DOLOROUS WAY

LONGINUS the centurion and four Roman soldiers led Jesus away out of the city to the place of public execution on the hill of Golgotha, outside the city walls : and with him they

took two thieves who had been sentenced to death for highway robbery, to crucify all three together. Each had to carry his own cross up the hill. But Jesus was so weak that he sank down under his cross at the city gate : then the soldiers laid hold of the first person that came in out of the country, who was one Simon of Cyrene, and made him carry it behind Jesus for the rest of the way. So they came to the place at noon, and crucified Jesus there between the two thieves, one on his right hand and one on his left : and over his head they fixed a label on which was written in three languages, so that all who passed by might read it, " Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The four soldiers divided his clothes among them by lot, and mocked him, offering him vinegar to drink, and saying, " King of the Jews, save yourself." The rulers of the people also laughed at him, and said, " He saved others, and cannot save himself ; if he be the Son of God, let him come down from the cross and we will believe in him." But many in the crowd that stood about bewailed and lamented him. From noon onwards for three hours there was darkness over all the land.

CHAPTER LXXII

THE TWO THIEVES

WHILE the two thieves hung nailed on their crosses on either hand of Jesus, the thief on his left hand railed and cursed at him, and said, "If you are Christ, save yourself and us." But the thief on the right hand rebuked his fellow, and said to him, "Have you no fear of God? We indeed are justly punished, and receive the due reward for what we have done; but this man has done nothing amiss." Then turning his face to Jesus he said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus turned his face to him and answered, "I tell you in truth, to-day you shall be with me in Paradise." With that the penitent thief died in great joy, and the thief on the left hand died in horror and anguish.

CHAPTER LXXIII

THE CROSS

NOW it was three hours after noon ; and the darkness still grew heavier, and silence fell on the crowd round the cross. Then Jesus spoke again from the cross in the darkness between the two dead thieves, and cried, " My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me ? " Those who stood by heard him, but were confused, and some of them thought that he was calling on the prophet of God to appear and help him. But Jesus spoke again, saying, " I am thirsty. " Then one of them ran and dipped a sponge in the jar of drink that the soldiers had by them, and held it up to Jesus at the end of a long reed to moisten his lips, saying, " Stop, let us see whether the prophet of God will come and take him down. " But Jesus cried out with a loud voice, " It is finished : Father, I commit my spirit into thy hands. " With these words he died.

CHAPTER LXXIV

THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD

THEN there was a great earthquake: the veil of the temple was torn asunder from top to bottom so that men saw into the hidden sanctuary; and rocks were rent and graves opened, and the bodies of dead people rose out of their graves and walked in the holy city, where they were seen by many men's eyes. The centurion and his men, seeing the darkness of the sun, and the earthquake, were afraid, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God." The masters of wisdom among the heathen sought in vain for the cause of the darkness and the earthquake; therefore they said, "Either the ordinance of nature in this world is dissolved, or God suffers, and the elements suffer with him." Also they set up an altar in Athens, and wrote upon it, "To an unknown God."

CHAPTER LXXV

THE SPIRITS IN PRISON

WHEN Jesus had rendered up his spirit on the cross, his soul left his body and passed down into the underworld, where the spirits of men departed sit in darkness until the last judgment. As he drew near, at the hour of midnight, a light shone through the house of darkness, and the spirits of the dead were lit up and saw one another. Then the soul of Adam the first of men uttered a voice, saying, "Surely the time is come when men shall once more have approach to the tree of life that grew in the garden, the tree of whose fruit no man has tasted since I was driven out of Paradise." The soul of Isaiah the prophet answered him, saying, "Surely the time is come of which I prophesied while I lived on the earth and said, The people that sit in darkness have seen a great light." Then the soul of John the Baptist said, "Surely he comes hither, to prepare whose way I was a voice crying in the wilderness." Now the light shone clearer and clearer about them, till it became as clear as the light of the sun: and the soul of

Simeon rose up among them, saying, "Give glory to Jesus Christ the Lord, whom my hands held in the temple when he was a baby, and I did not depart into this place until my eyes had seen the Salvation of God."

CHAPTER LXXVI

THE OPENING OF THE GATES

THEN there was heard a great voice like thunder, crying, "Lift up your gates, O princes; be lifted up, O everlasting doors, that the King of Glory may come in." The Master of the underworld ordered the brazen gates to be fastened and the iron bolts to be drawn; and then he answered to the voice as one that did not know, "Who is this King of Glory?" But the thunder of the whole heavenly host answered him again, crying, "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." After that voice there was silence, and then the voice of a single soul outside said, "Open for me that I may come in;" and the wicket being opened a little way, there came in a soul in the likeness of a thief carrying a cross of shame on his shoulder, who said as he entered, "He himself comes after me

immediately." Then the great cry came yet again, but now louder yet and close outside, "Lift up your gates, O princes; be lifted up, O everlasting doors, that the King of Glory may come in:" and at the sound of that voice the brazen gates were broken and the iron bolts crushed, and as the King entered, all the dark places of death were lighted up.

CHAPTER LXXVII

THE DELIVERER

ALL the souls of the dead flocked together round their King: and he taking hold of the soul of Adam by his right hand, said to him: "Peace be upon you, O Adam, and on all your children for ever." Then the soul of Adam fell down at his feet, and kissed his hands, and wept, saying, "Behold the hands that made me;" and in like manner Eve fell down at his feet and kissed his hands, and wept, saying, "Behold the hands that shaped me." Then the King set up his cross in the midst of the kingdom of the underworld to be a sign of his victory for ever; and taking Adam by the hand, he ascended with the saints and prophets and holy men and women

of old following, and gave them into the hands of Michael the archangel to lead them up to the gate of Paradise. Now as the spirits delivered out of prison came to the gate of Paradise, there met them at the gate two ancient men : of whom the souls of the saints asked, " Who are you, that are already here in the body, and your souls have not been with ours in the underworld among the dead ? " One of them answered, " I am Enoch, who was taken up into heaven in the days before the flood : and this other with me is Elijah, who went up into heaven in the fiery chariot : and until now we have not tasted death, but have been reserved until the coming of Antichrist."

CHAPTER LXXVIII

THE CENTURION'S SPEAR

THE next day after the crucifixion was the Sabbath of the Passover, which was a high day among the Jews : therefore towards evening they came to Pilate and asked that the three bodies might be taken down from the cross, so that their feast day might not be polluted by dead men hanging in the sight of the sun. Then the soldiers took down the two dead thieves from the

cross ; but when they came to take down the body of Jesus, Longinus the centurion reached out with his spear and pierced him in the side to make sure that he was really dead ; and forthwith blood and water came out of the wound, and ran down the shaft of the spear on the centurion's hands. Then all the crowd that had come to look on dispersed to their homes again. But his disciples, and Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils, and the other women who had followed him out of Galilee, stood still weeping, and looked on from far off.

CHAPTER LXXIX

THE TOMB IN THE ROCK

THERE was a councillor of the Jews called Joseph, of the city of Arimathæa, a rich man and honourable, who waited for the Kingdom of God. He was good and just, and had not consented to what the council of the Jews had planned and done. That evening he went boldly to Pilate, and asked him for the body of Jesus. Pilate sent for the centurion, and asked him if Jesus were really dead ; and being told that he was, he gave Joseph leave to take the body and

do with it as he would. Then Joseph fetched his friend Nicodemus, who had come to hear Jesus by night for fear of the Jews: and they brought clean linen cloths, and a hundred pounds weight of spices, and taking down the body, wound it with the spices in the linen cloths. Near the hill of the cross was Joseph's garden, and in it his own tomb, newly hewn in the rock, in which no body had been laid yet. Here they laid the body of Jesus, and rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb; and the women from Galilee looked on, and saw where he was laid. Then they went away. But the priests came to Pilate, and said, "Sir, we remember that while he was yet alive, that deceiver said that after three days he would rise again. Give orders therefore that the tomb be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night and steal away his body, and say to the people that he is risen from the dead." Pilate said to them, "Take a guard, and make the tomb as sure as you can." So they went and made it sure, sealing the stone in the doorway, and setting a watch round it. But the women from Galilee returned home, and prepared spices and ointments that night; and all the next day, being the Sabbath, they rested according to the law.

CHAPTER LXXX

THE GARDEN AT DAWN

THE next day as it began to dawn, very early in the spring morning, Mary Magdalene and two others of the women from Galilee set forth from the city, carrying the spices and ointments that they had prepared ; and just before sunrise they came to the garden where the body of Jesus had been laid in the tomb hewn out of the rock. As they went along they wondered how they might roll away the stone from the door of the tomb ; for it was very large and heavy. But when they came to the tomb and looked, the stone was already rolled away. For at dawn there had been an earthquake, and the angel of God had descended like lightning out of heaven, and had rolled back the stone from the door. At his coming the guards that were watching the tomb shook for fear, and became like dead men. Now when the women came up to the open doorway of the tomb, the body of Jesus was not there ; but sitting on the stone, by the right-hand side of the door, was a young man with a face that shone like flame, clothed in a

long garment as white as snow, who spoke to them, and said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Jesus who was crucified is not here, but is risen; look, there is the place where your Lord lay. Go now quickly, and tell his disciples that he is gone before them into Galilee." The women, hearing these words, fled out of the garden trembling and amazed. For a long time they were afraid to say anything to any one: and when at last they told the rest what they had seen and heard, their story seemed to the others to be idle tales, and they did not believe it.

CHAPTER LXXXI

THE EMPTY GRAVE

BUT Mary Magdalene, meeting Peter and John, said to them, "They have taken away the Master out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and John ran to the garden to look, leaving her to follow; and going into the tomb in the rock, they found it empty; and the linen cloths in which the body had been wound were folded up and lying there by themselves. So

they went home, wondering. But Mary had come back to the tomb, and stood outside it weeping; and as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb again; and she saw two angels in white sitting, the one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then she cried out again, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." But as she spoke, she was aware of some one who stood behind her: and supposing him to be the gardener, she cried without looking round, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and let me take him." A voice answered, saying, "Mary!" It was the sound of the voice of her Lord; and she turned to fall at his feet, crying, "Master!" But the voice said to her, "Do not touch me; for I am not yet ascended to my Father in heaven." When she came to herself, she went to the disciples, and told them that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to her in these words.

CHAPTER LXXXII

THE COUNTRY ROAD

THE same day towards evening, one of the disciples, named Cleopas, and a friend of his, set out from Jerusalem to walk to their house in a village called Emmaus, seven or eight miles off. As they went along talking to one another of all that had passed, another wayfarer came up and walked beside them, and asked them why they were so sad. Cleopas said, "Are you a stranger in Jerusalem? do you not know what has happened there?" He said, "What are you speaking of?" Cleopas and his friend answered, "Of Jesus of Nazareth, a mighty prophet both in deeds and words before God and all the people, whom our rulers have crucified. But we trusted that it was he who should have saved Israel. And some women of our company were early at his tomb this morning and did not find his body there, but came back saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he was not dead; and some of us went to the tomb and found it empty, just as the women had said." The stranger answered, "O foolish and slow of

heart to believe what the prophets have spoken, was it not foretold that Christ should suffer thus, and so enter into his glory?" Then he began to expound to them ancient sayings of Moses and the prophets concerning Christ, until they reached the village: and he made as if he would go on farther, but they begged him to stay the night with them there; for now daylight was nearly spent, and night was coming on. So he went in and sat down to supper with them; and as they sat at table, he took a piece of bread, and giving thanks, broke it and gave it to them, and vanished out of their sight.

CHAPTER LXXXIII

THE LOCKED ROOM

CLEOPAS and his friend rose up at once and went straight back to Jerusalem. When they got there late at night, they found the eleven and the rest of the disciples gathered together in a room, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. They let the two in, and all said at once, "The Master has risen, and has appeared to Simon Peter." Then Cleopas and his friend told in their turn how one had walked along with

them in the dusk, and how when he broke the bread they had known that it was the Master. While they talked thus among one another, with the doors still shut and locked, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, saying, "Peace be with you." They were all terrified, supposing that they saw a spirit. But he said, "Why are you troubled? Why do questionings arise in your hearts? Look on my hands and my feet; it is I myself. Handle me and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his pierced side. Then breathing on them, he said again, "Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit, and go into all the world preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins in my name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." With these words he vanished again from among them.

CHAPTER LXXXIV

THE PRINT OF THE NAILS

THOMAS the Twin, one of the eleven, was not there with the others that night. When he came back, they said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he did not believe

them; and he said, "Except I shall see and touch the print of the nails in his hands, and lay my hand on the wound in his side, I will not believe." Eight days afterwards the disciples were met together again, and Thomas was with them: then, the doors being shut, Jesus stood again in the midst of them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Behold my hands: reach out and touch them, and lay your hand on my side, and do not be faithless, but believe."

CHAPTER LXXXV

THE FIRE ON THE BEACH

THE disciples went back into Galilee, following the word brought by the women out of the garden, that Jesus was gone thither before them, and that they should see him again there; and they stayed in the hill-country by the lake waiting for him to appear to them. There Peter found his old fishing-boat; and one night he and six others of the disciples thought they would go out fishing on the lake; so they launched their boat and cast their nets, but caught nothing all night. When dawn began to break, they were

about a hundred yards from the shore in a little bay; and they saw some one standing on the beach a little way off, who called to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered, "None at all." He said, "Cast the net on the right hand, and you shall have a catch." So they cast; and at once the net was filled so full of fish that they could not pull it aboard. Then John said to Peter, "That is the Master!" As soon as Peter heard him, he tightened the belt of his fisherman's coat, and leaped out of the boat to swim to land; and the others came on in the boat, dragging the net behind them. When they came ashore they found a charcoal fire lit, and bread baking on it. The stranger said, "Bring some of the fish that you have caught." So they drew up the net on the beach, and took the fish out of it; and when they were counted, there were a hundred and fifty-three, all large fish. Then he said to them, "Come and eat:" and none of them dared to ask him who he was; for they were sure it was the Lord.

CHAPTER LXXXVI

THE PROMISE OF THE PRESENCE

YET some doubted: for they were all frightened and confused. Also the rulers of the Jews promised much money to the guards who had been set to watch the tomb, if they would say that the disciples of Jesus had come while they were asleep, and stolen away his body by night: and that was the common report among the Jews for long afterwards. But when they had no more visions of the Master in Galilee, the disciples went back to Jerusalem. There he appeared to them once more, and leading them out to the hill of the olive-gardens by the road of Bethany, he spoke to them, saying, "Do not go away any more, but wait in the holy city until the Spirit of God shall descend on you, not many days hence. Then go out into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. I will be with you always, even to the end of the world." When he had spoken thus, he raised his hands and blessed them, and a cloud took him out of their sight. Then they returned to

Jerusalem in great joy to wait until the Power from on high should come upon them according to the promise of the Lord.

CHAPTER LXXXVII

THE BAPTISM OF FIRE

THUS they waited with one accord for ten days more, until the day of the feast of the first-fruits of the new corn; and then, while they were all together, there suddenly came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and filled all the house where they sat, and an appearance of cloven tongues of fire descended and rested on each of them; and at once they were filled with the holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, in the languages of all the pilgrims who came to Jerusalem from east and west out of all the countries in the world. A crowd gathered round them: some were amazed, asking, "What does this mean?" and others mocked at them, saying, "These men are full of new wine." But Peter stood forth and preached to the multitude, calling on them to repent and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. That day three thousand souls

received the word gladly, and were baptized ; and every day more were added to them. Those who believed lived together in gladness, praising God, and having all things in common : and many signs and wonders were done by the apostles.

CHAPTER LXXXVIII

THE BEAUTIFUL GATE

PETER and John went up together to the temple at the hour of afternoon prayer : and a certain man, who had been lame from his birth, was being carried up the great flight of stairs ; for he was carried every day to the temple and set down beside the gate called the Gate Beautiful, to beg from the worshippers as they went in. When he saw Peter and John coming in, he begged an alms of them. Peter fixed his eyes on him, and said, "Look at us : " so he looked at them, expecting that they would give him something. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I have none, but what I have I will give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." As he spoke he stooped down, and taking the lame man by the

right hand, lifted him up. Immediately his feet and ankle-bones received strength, and springing up, he stood upright on his feet and walked ; and he went with them into the temple, walking and leaping, and praising God. All the people saw him, and knew him to be the man who sat begging at the Beautiful Gate, and were filled with amazement ; and a great crowd gathered round in the cloister of King Solomon.

CHAPTER LXXXIX

THE POWER OF THE NAME

WHILE Peter and John were preaching to the crowd, the captain of the temple came with a guard of soldiers and arrested them ; and they were put in prison until the next day, for now it was evening. Next morning they were brought out, and the lame man whom they had cured with them, and set in the middle of the council chamber : and the chief priests asked them, “ By what power, or in whose name, have you done this ? ” Peter answered, “ Rulers of the people, be it known to you and to all Israel, that by the name and power of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, and

whom God has raised from the dead, this man stands before you whole and sound." When they saw the boldness of the apostles, they were perplexed ; and ordering them to be removed, they conferred among themselves how they might keep the matter secret, but found that this was impossible ; for the whole city knew of it. So they had Peter and John called back, and charged them with threats not to speak or teach any more in the name of Jesus. But they answered, "Judge you whether it be right to obey you rather than God ; as for us, we cannot but speak of the things we have seen and heard." Then the chief priests threatened them further, and let them go.

CHAPTER XC

THE LIARS

THE multitude of the faithful were then of one heart and one soul ; and no one wanted among them ; for those who were rich sold their lands and houses, and bringing the price, laid it down at the apostles' feet, and distribution was made to every one according to his need. But a man named Ananias, who

sold a piece of land, agreed with his wife Sapphira to keep back a part of the price secretly; and he brought the rest and laid it down before the apostles, pretending that it was the whole. Peter looked at him, and said, "Ananias, why has the Tempter put it in your heart to lie about the price of the land? Was it not your own, and the price of it your own, to give to the faithful or not as you chose? You have not lied to men, but to God." When Ananias heard Peter's words, he fell down dead where he stood: and some of the young men took up his body and carried it away for burial. About three hours later Sapphira came in, not having heard yet what had befallen her husband. Peter asked her, "Tell me, did you sell the land for so much?" naming the sum of money that Ananias had brought. She answered, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said, "How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of God? See, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and shall carry you out." With that she fell down dead, just as the young men came in: and they carried her away, and buried her by her husband.

CHAPTER XCI

THE FLOWER OF MARTYRDOM

AS the number of the faithful was multiplied, the work of the daily distribution among them became a heavy task, and some of them complained that they were neglected. Therefore by the advice of the twelve (for the eleven apostles had chosen another to fill the place of Judas the traitor) seven men of wisdom were appointed to be over this business, while the apostles gave all their time to prayer and the preaching of the word. Among the seven, one named Stephen excelled all the rest in beauty of body and flower of age, and in his eloquence and wisdom; and being full of faith and power, he did great wonders among the people. Therefore the enemies of the faithful hired false witnesses, who brought him before the council, accusing him of having spoken blasphemies against the holy place, and against the law and customs of the nation. But when he made his defence, his face shone in sight of all the council as if it had been the face of an angel, and looking up steadily into heaven, he cried, "Lo! I see heaven opened, and

Jesus standing at the right hand of God." At that they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears ; and then rushing upon him, they dragged him out of the city and stoned him, while he still kept crying, " Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then kneeling down, he prayed aloud, " Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge," and with these words he fell and died.

CHAPTER XCII

THE MAN IN BRIGHT CLOTHING

AFTER Stephen's murder a great persecution rose against the faithful in Jerusalem, so that many of them fled and were dispersed abroad. Peter went to the seaport town of Joppa, where he lodged with one Simon, a tanner, who had a house by the sea. At that time an Italian cohort was in garrison at Cæsarea ; and one of the centurions, named Cornelius, was a devout and merciful man, who prayed to God always. On a day when he had fasted and prayed until mid-afternoon, he saw before him a man in bright clothing, who spoke to him by his name, saying, " Cornelius, your prayers and alms are gone up before God. Send to Joppa for one Simon Peter,

who lodges in the house of one Simon, a tanner, by the sea; he shall tell you the word of life, by which you and all your household shall be saved." When the angel departed, Cornelius called one of his soldiers and two of his household servants, and sent them at once to Joppa. They slept on the way that night; and the next day they went on their journey again, and came in sight of Joppa by noon.

CHAPTER XCIII

THE VISION BY THE SEA

AS the messengers drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, and being hungry, he fell into a trance. In his trance he saw heaven opened, and out of it a vessel like a great sheet, fastened at the four corners, seemed to be let down and to descend on earth. When it came down near him, he saw in it all kinds of wild beasts and creeping things and birds of the air, and heard a voice saying to him, "Rise, Peter, and eat." But in his trance he answered, "Not so, Lord, for I have never eaten unclean food." The voice said again, "Do not call any creature of God unclean," and then the sheet and

all in it was drawn up again into heaven. When Peter had come to himself and was still wondering what this might mean, the messengers from Cornelius came to the gate, and asked whether one Simon Peter lodged there. Peter went down, and said, "I am he; what is your errand?" They said, "Cornelius the centurion has had warning from God by a holy angel to send for you to his house, and to hear words from you." Then the Spirit of God said to Peter, "Go with them; for I have sent them." So he went with them to Cæsarea, where Cornelius received him with much honour, saying, "You have done well to come; and now we are ready to hear from you the message of God." Then Peter understood the meaning of his vision; and he answered, "Truly I see that God accepts all who fear him and do his will out of every nation. You have heard how God put his spirit and power in Jesus of Nazareth, who went about doing good: in his name it is that we preach to all men forgiveness of sins, and judgment of the living and the dead." Then Cornelius and his household were baptized; and thus first the heathen also received the gift of the Spirit and came into the Kingdom of God.

CHAPTER XCIV

THE CHARIOT IN THE DESERT

PHILIP the evangelist was in Samaria, when the word of God came to him by an angel, saying, "Rise, and go toward the south and the road of the desert." So he rose and went; and when he came to the road that ran by the fortress of Gaza through the great desert to the lands of the south, a chariot came along the road, travelling southward: and the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near, and join this chariot." Now in the chariot was an Ethiopian, who was chamberlain and keeper of the treasures of Candace, queen of Ethiopia. He was on his way home from Jerusalem, and as he sat in his chariot he was reading to himself from the book of the prophet. Philip came up by the side of the chariot, and said to him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" "How can I," said he, "unless I have a teacher? Come up and sit with me." Then Philip, sitting by him in the chariot, began to tell him of Jesus Christ. As they went on their way, they came to a pool of water by the road; and when the chamberlain saw it, he

said to Philip, "Why should I not be baptized?" Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." He answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Then he stopped the chariot, and they got out and went down to the water: there Philip baptized him, and as they came up from the water, an angel caught Philip away suddenly out of sight; and the chamberlain went on his way rejoicing to his own country and the court of his queen.

CHAPTER XCV

THE LIGHT AT NOON

OTHERS of the persecuted people had fled to Damascus; and the high priest and council sent to search them out there, and bring them back in chains to Jerusalem. The man they sent was one of the murderers of Stephen, named Saul, the son of a Pharisee of the city of Tarsus: but his Roman name was Paul; for he and his father were Roman citizens, and Tarsus was a free city of the Empire. As he went on this journey, and drew near Damascus about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone out and struck him to the earth, and as

he fell, he heard a voice say, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered, "Who are you, Lord?" The voice said, "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you persecute." Then he answered again, trembling and astonished, "Lord, what am I to do?" The voice said, "Rise, go into the city, and it shall be told you." All this while Saul's companions stood by speechless; for they saw the blaze of light, and heard the sound of a voice, but they saw no man there, nor did they hear the words. Then Saul rose from the ground, but the light from heaven had blinded him; and they led him by the hand into Damascus, where for three days he lay quite blind, and neither ate nor drank.

CHAPTER XCVI

THE STREET IN DAMASCUS

MEANWHILE the Lord appeared in a vision to one of the faithful in Damascus, and said, "Rise, and go into the street called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judah for one called Saul of Tarsus; for behold! he prays, and has seen in a vision one bearing the name of the Grace of God come in and touch him, that he

may receive his sight." He answered, "Lord, I have heard from many of that man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and how he is come here with authority from the chief priests to put into chains all who call upon your name." But the Lord spoke again, saying, "Go your way: for that man is my chosen vessel, to carry my name before the children of Israel, and before the heathen and their kings." Then he rose and went to the house of Judah; and entering, he laid his hands on Saul, saying, "Brother Saul, our Lord who appeared to you in the way as you came has sent me, that you may receive your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit." Immediately, as though scales had fallen from his eyes, his sight came back to him, and rising up, he was baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and ate food, and his strength came back to him.

CHAPTER XCVII

THE PILOT ANGEL

NOW the Romans made Herod, the grandson of the slayer of the Innocents, king in Jerusalem; and he stretched out his hands to

vex the faithful who were still left there ; for many were now dispersed into far countries, in Cyprus and Phœnicia, and in the great city of Antioch. At that time he struck off the head of James the apostle, the brother of John. It is written in a history of the acts of the apostles, that certain of the faithful took the body of James by night to the sea coast and laid it on a ship, which put out to sea without either sail or rudder by guidance of an angel, and sailed on thus until it arrived at the farthest coast of Spain. There his body was buried, and in after times a great church was built over it, where many wonders were wrought on the people who came to it on pilgrimage. But Herod, when he beheaded James, threw Peter into prison, meaning to kill him also after the festival was over. So Peter was put in chains between two soldiers, who never left him night or day, while other soldiers kept guard outside the door of his cell ; and so he was kept until the night before he was to be brought out for execution.

CHAPTER XCVIII

THE MIDNIGHT CITY

THAT night as Peter lay asleep in prison, the angel of the Lord came with a bright light that lit up the cell, and struck him on the side to waken him, saying, "Rise up quickly." As he said the words, the chains fell off Peter's wrists, and he rose to his feet. "Fasten your belt and put on your shoes," said the angel: "now cast your cloak about you and follow me." So Peter went out behind the angel, still only half-awake and not sure whether this was really happening, but thinking it a dream. They went past the first guard just outside the door, and past the second guard in the court of the prison, and came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out into the street. When they had gone along the length of one street, the angel vanished; and then Peter came to himself and knew that it was not a dream. So after considering what he had best do, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of Mark the evangelist, hoping to find some of the faithful there: and so it was, for several

of them had met in that house, and were praying for Peter on his last night in prison. He knocked at the door: and a girl came, and asked "Who's there?" before opening the door. When Peter answered, she knew his voice, and was so glad that she forgot to open the door, but ran in and told all the others that he was in the porch. At first they said, "You are mad:" but when she held to her story, they said, "It is his ghost." But all the while Peter was knocking outside; so at last they thought of opening the door, and he came in. Then, making a sign to them to keep quiet, he told them how he had been set free, and before day broke he went away and hid himself until the search for him should be over.

CHAPTER XCIX

THE GOLDEN ROBE

NEXT morning when Peter could not be found, King Herod ordered the keepers of the prison to be put to death. But soon afterwards he died himself because of his pride and vainglory. For when he had gone down to Cæsarea, he appointed a day to receive ambassadors that came to him from Tyre, and sat

on his throne to receive them, dressed in a robe woven of gold and silver thread, so that it shone in the sun like fire, and dazzled the eyes of all who looked on it. In that dress he made a speech from his throne ; and the people all gave a shout, crying, " It is the voice of a god and not of a man." But as he sat there in his pride, and exulted at being worshipped as a god, he looked up, and above his head he saw an owl sitting. Then he knew by what his soothsayers had told him that his death was upon him ; and the angel of God smote him, because he did not give the glory to God, and within five days after he died in great misery.

CHAPTER C

THE APOSTLE OF THE GENTILES

WHEN Paul began to preach the gospel in Damascus, the enemies of the faithful were dismayed, and resolved to kill him as he left the city ; so they set a watch at the city gates both by day and by night. But certain of the faithful who lived in a house on the city wall let him down from a window in a basket by night : so he escaped into the Arabian desert, and got back

to his own home at Tarsus. Afterwards Barnabas of Cyprus went to Tarsus and brought him to Antioch, where the disciples now began to be called by the name of Christians: and from Antioch Paul and Barnabas made many journeys through Asia, preaching the gospel wherever they went. Once when they were preaching in a certain inland city, almost the whole town gathered to hear them, and when the Jews who were there saw the crowds listening, they were full of envy, and contradicted and blasphemed. Then Paul turned to them and said, "The word of God had to be spoken first to you: but since you put it from you and despise everlasting life, lo, we turn to the heathen, that the words of the prophet may be fulfilled, who said, I have set a light among the heathen, and salvation as far as the ends of the world."

CHAPTER CI

THE WORKS OF THE GODS

PAUL and Barnabas came on their journey to the city of Lystra; and when they came up to the city gate, they found a man sitting there

who was a cripple from his birth, and had never walked. Paul looked at him, and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said to him, "Stand up on your feet;" and the cripple sprang up and walked. When the townspeople saw this, they made a great clamour, crying out in their language, "The gods have come down among us! these are Zeus and Hermes in the shape of men." Then they ran to the temple of Zeus outside the gate, and fetched the priest, who came with garlanded oxen into the gateway to do sacrifice to these gods. But Paul and Barnabas were dismayed, and ran in among the people, crying out, "Masters, why is this? we are men like yourselves; and our message to you is to turn away from these idols to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and all the creatures that are in them, the giver of good, the sender of rain from heaven, the bestower of fruitfulness to the earth." So at last with much pains they persuaded the people not to offer sacrifice to them. But soon afterwards Jews came from other cities who told the people of Lystra that Paul was a magician; and believing them, they stoned him and dragged him out of the town, leaving him by the road for dead. However,

after a while he came to himself, and the next day he and Barnabas went on to another town.

CHAPTER CII

THE SHORE OF TROY

AT last they came on their journey to the plain of Troy, from which across the narrow seas can be seen the Greek islands and the mountains of Thrace: and there a vision appeared to Paul by night, of a man who seemed to stand on the shore of Europe and to say, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." He took this vision for a sign that the Lord was calling him to cross the seas: therefore he got on board a ship and sailed for Philippi, the chief city of Macedonia; and he preached to the people in a meadow by the river outside the town. Barnabas had gone back to his own home in Cyprus, but two others of the brethren went with Paul on this journey, namely Silas of Jerusalem, and Luke the doctor, who wrote this part of the story. Now, after a while, some of the townspeople took Paul and Silas before the magistrates in the market-place, complaining that they troubled the city and

taught strange customs. So they were beaten and sent to prison : and the jailor, being told to keep them safe at his peril, thrust them into a cell, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

CHAPTER CIII

THE EARTHQUAKE IN THE PRISON

AT midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing in their cell, there was a great earthquake. The prison shook, all the doors flew open, and the fetters of the prisoners fell off. The jailor awoke, and seeing the prison doors open, thought that the prisoners had broken out and fled ; and knowing that he had to answer for them at his peril, he was in despair, and drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul cried out to him, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he dropped the sword, and calling for lights, he came in trembling and fell down before Paul and Silas, saying, "O masters, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ:" and he believed and was baptized ; and bringing them into his own house, he bathed their wounds and set food before them. When day broke, orders came from the

magistrates to let the men go. So the jailor said to Paul, "The magistrates have sent to let you go; go therefore in peace." But Paul answered, "We have been beaten and sent to prison without trial, although we are Roman citizens, and would they make us no amends? No, let them come themselves and fetch us out." So the magistrates had to come and beg them to go away; and they left Philippi and went on their journey through the cities of Greece, until at last Paul came to Athens.

CHAPTER CIV

THE CITY OF WISDOM

THERE Paul went about the shining city, where the streets and temples were full of statues of the gods, and the marble House of the Virgin, the wonder of the world, all beautifully carved and painted and gilt, stood glittering high on the castle rock; and it was all an evil thing to him, and his heart was bitter within him. So he spoke daily in the marketplace of Jesus and the resurrection from the dead, and disputed with the wise men of the Garden and the Portico who encountered him.

But few listened to him; and of these, some called him a babbler, and others a preacher of foreign gods. At last they took him along to the hill of Ares, and told him to set forth his new doctrine, whatever it might be. Then Paul stood up before them and spoke thus.

CHAPTER CV

THE SPEECH AT ATHENS

“**I** OBSERVE, Athenians, that respect for the gods never fails you: indeed, as I walked about viewing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar inscribed: To an unknown God. This God, whom you worship in ignorance, I preach among you; the God who created the universe and all its parts, Lord of heaven and earth, no dweller in temples built by hands, nor needing any service that human hands can give him, but himself the giver of life and breath and being to all. Of one family he has made every mortal nation, determining their destined periods and the boundaries of their settlements on the whole face of the earth, that they might feel after him and seek until they find him. Yet indeed he is not far from any one of us; in him

we live and move and have our being, as certain of your own poets have said, *Yea, of his race are we*: and being of divine race, we may not think that his deity bears any likeness to gold or silver or marble shaped by art and human imagination. The times of this ignorance God has indeed borne for long; but now he calls on all mankind everywhere to change their ways: for he has ordained a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has chosen; and for assurance of this to all, has raised him up from the dead."

CHAPTER CVI

THE IMAGE OF EPHEBUS

IN the city of Ephesus was a temple of the goddess Artemis, which was the largest and most splendid in the whole world, for it had a hundred and seventy-five carved pillars, each the gift of a king, and in it was an ancient image of the goddess which was said to have fallen from heaven. Ephesus was full of silversmiths who made silver shrines to hold copies of this image, and sold them to pilgrims; and one of them, named Demetrius, called a meeting of his

fellow craftsmen, and said to them, "If this man Paul goes on telling the people that gods made by men's hands are no gods, our trade will decay, and the great goddess of Ephesus will be cast down from her glory." Then they all raised a shout, "Great is Artemis of Ephesus!" and went on shouting this until the uproar spread through all the city. The people rushed in crowds into the great theatre, some crying one thing and some another, and most of them not knowing what it was all about; and for nearly two hours on end there was nothing to be heard but, "Great is Artemis of Ephesus!" At last the town-clerk got them to be silent for a moment, and spoke to them thus: "Citizens of Ephesus, be orderly and do nothing rashly. Who does not know that the city of Ephesus is keeper of the temple of Artemis the Great, and of the image that fell from heaven? If Demetrius and his guild have a complaint to make against any one, the courts are open and they can bring an action. But this disorderly meeting brings us into danger of being charged with sedition." So the crowd quieted down and dispersed.

CHAPTER CVII

THE APPEAL TO ROME

AFTERWARDS Paul went back to Jerusalem; but the enemies of the faithful raised a riot against him, and the rioters dragged him out of the temple court and would have torn him in pieces, but that the Roman captain Claudius Lysias came down from the castle and rescued him: and as all the city was in an uproar, he sent him away by night with a guard of soldiers to the Roman governor at Cæsarea, Antonius Felix. Felix did not know what to do with him, and put off his trial again and again, until at last he left the province. The new governor who succeeded him, finding Paul still in prison, was going to send him back for trial at Jerusalem. Then Paul, being a Roman citizen, appealed to the Emperor. So he and some other prisoners were handed over to a Roman centurion to be taken to Rome. They were put on board a Greek coasting-vessel that was returning to Asia; and sailing up the Syrian coast and under the lee of Cyprus, they crossed to the

mainland and put in at Myra in Lycia, where they found an Egyptian corn-ship in harbour just sailing for Italy.

CHAPTER CVIII

THE SEA-TEMPEST

THE centurion got his prisoners on board of the Egyptian ship, and it put to sea. For a long while they had calms and light airs, and sailed very slowly; so that the autumn equinox and the season of gales came on while they were still only off the coast of Crete, and at anchor waiting for a wind in the roadstead of Fairhavens. The captain and the owner of the ship were anxious to get into a better harbour before winter; so when a soft south wind began to blow, they weighed anchor and made sail. But in a little while the wind rounded into the north-east and blew a great gale. They could not work up against it, but let the ship drive. The storm continued day after day. On the third day they had to cut away the yards and rigging, and for ten days more they drifted helplessly before the wind. On the thirteenth night the vision of an angel stood by Paul, saying to him,

“Do not be afraid; you must yet stand before the Emperor; and God has given you the lives of all who sail in this ship with you: but you must be wrecked upon an island.” All the fourteenth day they kept drifting, not knowing in the least where they were, for they had not seen either sun or stars since the storm began. But towards midnight the sailors heard the noise of breakers, and when they took soundings, found the bottom shelving up rapidly; so, fearing to run ashore on rocks, they cast four anchors astern and waited for daylight.

CHAPTER CIX

THE SHIPWRECK

MEANWHILE some of the sailors got out the boat and lowered it away, saying that they were going to cast more anchors out of the forecastle; but they meant to go off in the boat and leave the ship. Paul saw them doing this, and said to the centurion, “If these men quit the ship, you are lost.” Then the soldiers cut away the ropes and let the boat fall off. Now dawn was breaking, and they saw land ahead, and a creek in it with a sandy beach,

on which they determined, if they could, to run the ship aground. So after they had all eaten breakfast, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat in the hold overboard, and managed to hoist a sail: then cutting the cables of their anchors, they let the ship drive until she ran aground, and the bows stuck fast, while the stern was soon broken up by the sea. Then the crew and passengers took to the water, those who could swim swimming, and the rest floating on planks or broken pieces of the ship; and at last all the two hundred and seventy-six souls that were on board got safe to land.

CHAPTER CX

THE WINTER ISLAND

SOME country people had come down to the beach when day broke and they saw the wreck, and told them that they had come ashore on the island of Malta. They treated the shipwrecked people very kindly, and began to kindle a great fire on the beach that they might warm themselves and dry their clothes. Paul was gathering sticks to put on the fire, and had just gathered a bundle and put them on, when a viper

that had been coiled up asleep among them, being wakened by the heat, darted out and fastened its teeth in his hand. When the islanders saw this, they looked at one another, whispering, "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom the Vengeance of the Gods does not suffer to live although he has escaped from the sea." But Paul shook off the viper into the fire, and felt no harm. They kept looking for him to swell up or fall down dead suddenly; but after they had looked for a great while and saw no harm come to him, they changed their mind, and said he must be a god. The shipwrecked crew were sent to the town, where they spent the winter; and when spring began, the centurion took passages for himself and his prisoners on another Egyptian corn-ship, called the *Twin Brethren*, which had wintered in the island and was bound for Rome. This time they had a prosperous voyage to Puteoli; and from there they went on to Rome by land, and Paul was handed over to the commander of the Imperial Guard. At that time Nero Cæsar was Emperor in Rome.

CHAPTER CXI

THE EMPEROR'S MAGICIAN

IT is written in the ancient history that Simon the Magician, who had once offered Peter money to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, lived then at the court of Nero: for he had gone to Rome, and performed many wonders by magic before the Emperor, making for him serpents of brass that moved, and images that laughed. Afterwards Peter came also to Rome, where Paul was still a prisoner; and by their preaching and prayer they hindered the sorceries of Simon. Then he said to the Romans, "These Galilæans vex me; therefore on a certain day I will leave this city and ascend into heaven." On the appointed day he went up to the top of a tower on the Capitol, and leaping off it, floated in the air by the help of his magic. Then Peter cried out, "Angels of the Evil One who bear this man up in the air, I charge you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that you bear him up no longer." No sooner had he spoken thus, than Simon's magic failed him, and falling out of the air, he broke his neck and died. Then

the Emperor, being grieved that he had lost a man who did such great wonders, said that both the apostles should be put to death. So orders were given for Peter to be seized and crucified: but Paul, because a Roman citizen might not die by a shameful death, was condemned to be beheaded; and being taken out of the city, had his head struck off beside the Ostian Way, two miles out of Rome.

CHAPTER CXII

THE PRINCE OF THE APOSTLES

PETER fled out of the city before the soldiers came to arrest him, and got through the city gate unnoticed. But as he was going along the Appian Way past the tombs of the Romans, he thought he saw one coming towards the city to meet him, carrying a cross on his shoulder; and as they came nearer, it bore the likeness of the Lord Jesus. Peter said, "Lord, whither are you going?" and the other made answer, "I am going to Rome to be crucified again." Then Peter, full of shame that he had fled, turned back and gave himself up to the persecutors. For when the vision of Jesus appeared to his disciples

at dawn by the lake after his death, he had said to Peter, "Be you the shepherd of my sheep:" and the good shepherd does not flee away in danger and leave his flock. Also he had said, "When you were young, you girded yourself and walked wherever you would; but when you shall be old, you shall stretch forth your hands and another shall gird you and carry you where you would not," foretelling thus by what death Peter should die. But when Jesus walked with the twelve in Galilee while he was yet alive, he had said to Peter, "To you I give the keys of my Kingdom." So now Peter was crucified with outstretched hands in the Emperor's gardens on the Vatican hill: and on the place where he died was built in after times the greatest church in all the world, in which the image of Peter, wrought in bronze, sits holding the keys that shut and open the door of heaven.

CHAPTER CXIII

THE ANGEL WITH THE PALM

MARY, the mother of Jesus, lived for the rest of her days among the faithful in Jerusalem in the house of John. For when Jesus

hung on the cross, he saw her standing by with John, his best loved disciple, beside her ; and he said to her, " Behold your son," and turning his eyes to John, he said to him, " Behold your mother." From that day John took her to his own home and was like a son to her. At last after many years the archangel Michael came to her in a great light, as the angel of the Salutation had come to her in the beginning ; only now the angel bore in his hand not a lily but a branch of palm. He saluted her, and said, " Hail, blessed among women ; by the token of this palm out of Paradise know that your soul shall be taken from your body the third day from now, and you shall go where your Son is." Then he ascended to heaven in a great light. The third night thereafter, all the apostles were gathered round her among burning candles ; and a little before midnight they heard heavenly voices singing the hymn *Veni coronaberis* ; and Mary hearing it also, said, " I come," and died. The apostles laid her body on a bier, and carried it out of the city to burial, singing as they went, while the archangel took her soul to Paradise. But the story says that her body did not remain in the tomb, but was taken up into heaven ; and

that when the apostles went again to visit her grave, they found it empty but for lilies and roses that had sprung up and filled it all.

CHAPTER CXIV

THE LORD'S BROTHER

IN those years the head of the church of the faithful in Jerusalem was James the Less, the kinsman of Jesus. He had a vision of his risen Master certain days after the rest of the disciples. For he had made a vow that he would not eat until he should have seen Jesus again ; but in a vision Jesus himself appeared to him, and taking bread, blessed it and gave it to him, saying, "My brother, eat your bread, for I am risen from among them that sleep." So he grew old in Jerusalem ; but in the end the people, being stirred up against him by the priests, flung him down from the wall of the temple, and as he lay on the ground, a man struck him on the head with a fuller's club, so that he died. But all the people confessed that this was a wicked deed ; and from it they reckoned the beginning of the signs and wonders that foretold the destruction of their city.

CHAPTER CXV

THE CITY OF DESTRUCTION

FOR a whole year a blazing star, shaped like a sword, hung in the sky over Jerusalem. About sunset, there were seen in the air chariots and a great host of armed men that seemed to environ the city suddenly. At the dead of night before dawn there was a great light about the altar and the holy house, that made it for half an hour as bright as day. When the priests went into the inner court of the temple to perform the service of the feast of the first-fruits, the sanctuary shook, and they heard a voice as of the whole multitude of the Heavenly Ones saying, "Let us depart hence:" and the brazen gate swung open of its own accord, although it was so heavy that it took twenty men to open and shut it, and was bolted deep into the stone sill. But what terrified the people still more than all these signs was the word of a prophet, Jesus son of Hanan, a countryman. He came into the city at the feast of harvest when it was in great peace and prosperity, and began to cry aloud, "The voice of the Orient, the voice of the Occi-

dent, the voice of the four winds against the city and the holy house, against bridegroom and bride, against this whole people: woe to Jerusalem!" Thus he went on crying day by day; and the priests and the Roman governor had him beaten, but to no avail; for he asked neither for mercy for himself nor for vengeance on those who beat him, but as soon as he was released, went on with his cry in the same words. Thus he went on crying day after day, until the Roman army had begun to besiege the city; and then he changed his cry for once and once only, and cried out, "Woe to myself also!" and as he spoke, a great stone came flying from one of the Roman engines and struck him dead as he stood on the city wall.

CHAPTER CXVI

THE FLIGHT INTO THE WILDERNESS

FOR because the fore-ordained time of vengeance was come, the Jews broke out into rebellion against the Empire, and drove out the Roman garrison. Then the Emperor Nero sent his legions under a general named Vespasian to make war against them, and destroy the city

and the temple. But the faithful in the city took note of the signs and wonders that foretold the end, and remembered the warnings that Jesus had given of the desolation to come, and the anguish of the last times, such as was not since the beginning of the world until then, nor ever shall be. Therefore they left the city and fled across Jordan into the wilderness, and the borderlands near the town of Pella; and there they lived in quiet, writing down all that they remembered of what Jesus had said and done while he was on earth, and awaiting the last days and the end of the world, that seemed then to all men very near at hand.

CHAPTER CXVII

THE CONFUSION OF THE WORLD

WHILE Vespasian was waging war in Judæa, the Senate and People of the Romans rose against Nero and overthrew him; and when he had killed himself, the house of the Cæsars came to an end, and there followed the Year of the Four Emperors and the confusion of the world. Vespasian was made Emperor by the legions of the East; and he went to Rome,

leaving his son Titus to besiege Jerusalem. In the civil wars of Italy in that year the Capitol at Rome, which was the chief temple of the gods of Rome, and had a golden roof that shone like the sun over the whole city, was burned by the German army that had marched from the river Rhine and the northern forests to fight for the general whom they had made Emperor : and great awe fell on all the nations. But the Jews rejoiced when they heard of it, thinking that now the Roman empire would perish and their own kingdom and temple be established for ever. But it was not so : for the Capitol was rebuilt more magnificently than before, and the Roman Empire renewed its strength and drew the whole world under it, even to the far-off island of Britain : and after a two years' siege, the army of Titus stormed Jerusalem and destroyed it. Before the end, the famine had become so terrible in the city that parents pulled the bread out of their children's mouths, and grown men fell down dead in the street when they tried to walk, and there were not enough left alive to bury the corpses. The history says, that eleven hundred thousand souls perished in the siege by famine and sword ; and such as

were not killed were sold for slaves, thirty of them for one piece of silver. Then the Romans burned the temple and levelled the ruins, so that one stone was not left upon another ; and the holy city lay desolate.

CHAPTER CXVIII

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

OF the Christians that had fled out of Jerusalem before it was compassed about by the Roman armies, some lived all the rest of their life in the peace of the wilderness, and others went abroad through the realms of the East preaching the Gospel ; and the apostles, all except John, came by their death in diverse countries at the hands of the heathen ; but he outlived them all, and of his last days many stories were told ; for he lived so long that men began to believe that he would never die. Three of the apostles were crucified, as their master had been, in three distant countries : namely, Andrew in Greece, Philip in the Holy City of Phrygia, and Bartholomew in a city of Armenia by the Caspian Sea. Simon and Jude, who travelled together through the East, were

likewise slain together by the worshippers of idols in a city of Persia. Matthew went as far as Ethiopia, where he turned the king and many of his people to the faith of Christ; but afterwards a new king who was a heathen came to the throne, and Matthew was killed by his soldiers while he stood praying before the altar in the church that he had built.

CHAPTER CXIX

THE INDIAN KING

THE Lord appeared to the apostle Thomas in a vision, and said to him, "Thomas my servant, the king of India has sent his marshal into the lands of the West to find a master-builder that may build him a palace like the Emperor's at Rome; I will send you thither." So Thomas went with the king's ambassador, and they sailed over the seas to India. Then the king gave a great treasure into his hands, and telling him where he desired the palace to be built, he went away to another province of his kingdom, where he remained for two years. But all that time Thomas preached the gospel, and gave away the treasure in alms to the poor and sick and

hungry ; so when the king came back, and found his treasure spent and no palace built for him, he was very angry, and threw Thomas into prison, that he might be put to death. Meanwhile the king's brother fell sick, and died ; and they laid him out on a bier, that he might be buried in the royal tombs. But on the fourth day he came to life and sat up on his bier, and said to the king, " My lord, this man whom you would kill is the friend of God, and the angels of God serve him. For when I died, I was taken by angels into Paradise, and there they showed me a marvellous palace built all of gold and silver and precious stones ; and when I was amazed by its richness and beauty, they said to me, This is the palace that Thomas has built for your brother." Then the king fetched Thomas out of prison, and falling down at his feet, asked pardon of him ; and Thomas baptized him in the name of the Lord Jesus. But the king's brother said, " I have seen the palace that you have built, and fain would I be a doorkeeper in it." Thomas answered, " You may also have a palace of your own in that Kingdom ; for in it are many mansions, made ready since the beginning of the world, and to be bought by price of your

prayers and largesse of your riches : for thus your earthly riches may go before you to those palaces, but they may by no means follow you thither."

CHAPTER CXX

THE IMPREGNABLE CITY

AFTERWARDS Thomas went on a journey into another Indian kingdom, where he was killed by the heathen priests ; but the Christian men took away his body and buried it, and many years afterwards it was taken up and borne to Edessa, the city of King Abgarus ; of whom the story tells that while Jesus was alive on earth, and the councillors of the Jews went about to kill him, King Abgarus sent him a letter saying, "Come to my city and live in it safely, for it is a small city, but there is room in it for you and me." But Jesus sent this message back to him, "Blessed are you, because you have not seen me and yet have believed in me : but now I may not come to you, for I must finish the work for which I was sent into the world." The story says that this letter from Jesus was kept in Edessa in the treasure-house of the kings, and that by the

virtue of it no enemy might ever prevail against the city. For if any king came with an army against Edessa, they set a child to stand on the battlements of the city gate and read that letter aloud; and forthwith the enemy fled, or else made peace with the king and people of Edessa.

CHAPTER CXXI

THE BELOVED DISCIPLE

IN the killing times of Nero, the apostle John was imprisoned in the island of Patmos by order of the Emperor; and there he had a revelation from heaven of the second coming of Christ upon earth and of the last judgment. But after the end of Nero he was released, and for many years he was head of the church of the faithful in Ephesus; and men held him in great awe because of the revelation that had been given him, and because he was the last left alive of those who had known Jesus Christ on earth and gone about with him from the beginning. When he was very old and feeble, he would be carried into the place where the Christians of Ephesus met for worship; and there he said only these words to them, "Little children, love one

another." His disciples asked him why he said nothing else than this, and why he said it so often; and he answered them, "Our Lord so commanded; and whoever obeys this commandment well, it shall be sufficient for his salvation."

CHAPTER CXXII

THE FOUR EVANGELISTS

JOHN was in his hundredth year when he died: he was the last of the four evangelists who wrote the story of Jesus Christ upon earth, and through whom the gospel of the Kingdom was spread abroad throughout the world: and his sign is an eagle holding a cup. Matthew the apostle wrote the first of the four Gospels; his sign is a man with wings. The other two evangelists were Mark and Luke, whose signs are a winged lion and a winged ox. Luke was the doctor who went about with Paul on his journeys and was with him in the shipwreck on the island, and afterwards while he was a prisoner at Rome; and he wrote the history of the acts of the apostles. The evangelist Mark was nephew of Barnabas of Cyprus; he went about with Paul and with Peter, and after they

had died he went to Alexandria, where he was killed by the heathen. Many years afterwards his body was taken away in a ship by the Venetians, and enclosed in one of the pillars of the great church that they built at Venice, and his signet-ring is in their treasure-house; and by the might of the evangelist the Duke and people of Venice found help against all their enemies.

CHAPTER CXXIII

THE HEATHEN EMPERORS

FOR more than two hundred years thereafter the power of Rome endured and the heathen Emperors ruled over the world; and many persecutions befel the church of the faithful. Yet as time went on, the strength of the Empire grew less, while the number of the faithful was multiplied continually. But the persecution grew fiercest when the end was near, under the Emperor Decius, and after him in the times of the Emperors Diocletian and Maximian: and at that time many of the saints whose fame has gone throughout all the world laid down

their life for the faith of Jesus Christ, and many others also whose names are only known to God.

CHAPTER CXXIV

MARGARET OF ANTIOCH

THEODOSIUS of Antioch had a daughter named Margaret, who became a Christian while she lived with her nurse in the country. The prefect of Antioch passed by where she was keeping sheep, and sending for her, asked her what was her birth and name and religion. She answered, "My birth is noble, and my name is Margaret, and my Lord is Christ." The prefect said, "Birth and name befit your beauty well; but it is not well that so fair and noble a maid should have for her Lord one crucified: therefore worship our gods, that it may be well with you." But she said, "I worship the Lord of all creatures." Then she was put into prison, where a fiend appeared to her in the shape of a dragon, and when she asked him who he was, he said, "I am one of those spirits whom King Solomon shut up in a vessel of brass. But certain men in Babylon found the vessel, and hoping to find

treasure in it, they broke it, and we issued forth and wander over the world." Margaret made the sign of the cross over him, and immediately he sank into the earth. The next day she was brought out for execution: then there was heard great thunder, and a dove flew down from heaven and set a golden crown on her head; and the executioner struck off her head, and fell down himself dead at her feet.

CHAPTER CXXV

THE WINTER ROSES

IN a certain city of Asia there lived a Roman senator, who had a daughter named Dorothea. When she grew up, she was the most beautiful of all the maidens in that kingdom; but she loved poverty and holiness, and despised the riches of the world. Fabricius the heathen governor desired her to be his wife, but she denied him utterly; whereupon his love was turned into hatred; and setting up an idol on a pillar in the market-place, he said to Dorothea, "Now do sacrifice to our gods, or your head shall be cut off forthwith." But she said, "Kill

me or do to me what torment you will, for I am ready to suffer all for the love of Jesus Christ, that I may go to be with him in the garden of Paradise." Then Fabricius ordered her to be beheaded. While she was being led to execution, a young lawyer of that city, named Theophilus, said to her in mockery, "Dorothea, I pray you to send me some of the flowers and fruit of that garden whither you are going." Now this was on a cold February day of frost and snow, when no green thing was to be seen. Dorothea answered him meekly, "It shall be as you desire;" and she passed on to the place of execution, and the executioner struck off her head. But as Theophilus stood that day in the palace of the Emperor, there came to him a fair child, barefoot, curly-haired, dressed in a purple garment powdered with golden stars; and in his hand he carried a glittering basket filled with roses and apples: and giving the basket to Theophilus, he said, "My sister Dorothea has sent these to you from Paradise." With that the child vanished away, leaving Theophilus with the roses and apples in his hands. But Theophilus was converted to the faith of Jesus Christ, and confessed him before the governor of the

city; and having first been baptized, he was condemned to death, and followed Dorothea into the bliss of heaven.

CHAPTER CXXVI

THE PRINCESS OF CYPRUS

THERE reigned in Cyprus a king and queen who had one only daughter named Katharine. She was beautiful beyond other women, and wise above her years; and her father built a tower for her in his palace, and got the seven wisest masters of the world to instruct her; but her wisdom was so great, that she taught those who came to be her teachers. Now the king her father died, and thus Katharine became Queen of Cyprus. After she was crowned, as she sat on her throne with all her lords about her, an old lord, who was her uncle, rose and knelt before her, saying, "Sovereign lady, your people desire that it may please you to take some prince for a husband, that he may defend the kingdom and that you may have children to reign here after you. For as you come of noble blood and inherit a mighty kingdom and excel other queens in beauty and wisdom, so it is right

that these gifts should not die with you, but continue in your offspring." Then Katharine answered him, "Good uncle, as you have described me, so I will describe him who alone may be my lord: he must be the noblest in the world and prince of the mightiest kingdom, and so beautiful that the angels shall rejoice to behold him, and so rich and great that no one may say of him that I made him a king." Then the lords of the council departed, but Katharine went into her tower and mused how she might find such a one for her husband.

CHAPTER CXXVII

THE PALACE IN THE DESERT

THERE lived at that time in the desert a holy man, a hermit, named Adrian. On a day as he walked before his cell, he saw the vision of a lady of marvellous beauty, who said to him, "Brother Adrian, you must go to the city of Alexandria and the palace of Queen Katharine, and take her this message from me: The lady whose son you have chosen for your husband salutes you, and bids you come with me to be betrothed to him." Adrian answered,

“Ah, blessed lady, how can I take this message? for I do not know the city nor the way thither, nor do such as I go into the presence of queens.” But she said, “Do not be afraid, but go, for the angel of my Lord shall lead you.” Then he obeyed her, and going to Alexandria, entered the palace; and all the doors opened of themselves before him, until he came into the tower and the queen’s chamber. When he gave her the message, she rose at once and followed him out of the palace and through the city into the desert, unseen by any man. But as they went, Adrian thought he must have lost his way; for he did not know where he was, and the country seemed strange to him. Then Katharine said to him, “Father, what is that palace that is so rich and fair to see?” “Where?” said he: and she said, “Yonder in the East.” Then he turned where she pointed, and saw across the desert a most glorious house, that he had never seen before: and as they drew near the gate, a company came to meet them in white, with garlands of white lilies, who said to Katharine, “Welcome, dear sister;” and they led her in to the second gate, where another company met them in crimson, with garlands of red roses, who also said,

“Welcome, dear sister.” Then they entered into the chapel of that house, which was full of music; and in the throne of the apse stood a Queen, with a multitude of saints and angels around her.

CHAPTER CXXVIII

THE RING OF BETROTHAL

THEN that Queen said to Adrian, “Brother, baptize this my daughter.” So he baptized her; and the Queen said, “Now, my own daughter, be joyful, for I will bring you to my son.” So she led her by the hand to the door of the choir; and there among a multitude of angels stood the Lord Jesus Christ himself, who said to her, “Katharine, come here and give me your hand;” and when she did so, he put a ring on her finger, saying, “Keep this in remembrance of me, and I will keep you both in this life and after this life for ever. Now I must go hence: but do you stay here with Adrian for ten days to be instructed perfectly in all my will. Then return home, and do not fear lest they have missed you there; for I have set a likeness of you in the palace to keep your place until you return.” Then

he blessed her and vanished out of her sight, and she fell down in a swoon. When she came to herself and opened her eyes, the palace and all that company were vanished quite away, and she saw nothing but an old ruinous cell in the desert, and the old hermit weeping beside her and calling on her to come to herself; only the ring of betrothal was still on her finger. So she stayed there with him until he had instructed her perfectly in the faith, and then returned to her palace in the city.

CHAPTER CXXIX

THE WISE MASTERS

NOW the Emperor Maxentius the persecutor came to Alexandria, and assembled all the people to sacrifice to his idols: and those who would not sacrifice to the idols he put to death. The princess Katharine went out of her palace to the Emperor, and meeting him before the gate of the temple, she said to him, "Why, O Cæsar, have you assembled this multitude to adore the folly of idols? Do you marvel at this temple made by men's hands, and its precious ornaments which are but as dust before the

wind? Marvel rather at heaven and earth and all that is therein, at the sun, the moon, and the stars that have been since the beginning, and shall be so long as it shall please God, and that move from East to West and never are weary; and when you have marvelled at all these, ask who is their Master and maker, and adore him only." Maxentius answered, "Who and of what lineage are you?" She said, "It is a saying of the wise, Praise not thyself overmuch, neither blame thyself, for so do fools. I am Katharine, daughter of the king of Cyprus, born in the purple and instructed in all wisdom; but this I despise, for I have given myself wholly to the Lord Jesus Christ." The Emperor sent for the masters of wisdom among the heathen throughout all the provinces of the empire to come and dispute against Katharine, but she put them all to silence by her wisdom. At last the master of those masters said to the Emperor, "Sir, no one was ever able to withstand us, except this maid, in whom the Spirit of God speaks; therefore, unless you can show reason otherwise, we confess that we believe in Jesus Christ."

CHAPTER CXXX

THE EMPEROR'S WHEEL

THEN Maxentius was filled with fury, and ordered them all to be burned in the city square. But to Katharine he said, "Lady, have pity on your own youth and beauty, and you shall be the first lady in my palace after the Empress, and your statue shall be set up in this city and worshipped as a goddess." But Katharine answered, "Neither fair words nor torment shall call me away from my Lord Jesus Christ." Then he ordered her to be put to the torture; and four wheels of iron were made, set round with sharp knives, and fixed so that when they were turned round the knives might cut to pieces all that was between them. But when Katharine was set in the middle of the wheels, an angel broke them, so that the pieces flew out and killed many of the heathen who were looking on. Then they struck off her head: and angels took up her body and carried it to Mount Sinai, where God had once appeared to

Moses in the burning bush; and certain Christians, following the shadow cast by the angels, built a chapel there and laid her body in it.

CHAPTER CXXXI

THE SIGN OF VICTORY

THIS Maxentius, son of Maximian, was the last of the heathen Emperors, and his persecution was the heaviest of all that had been since the persecution of Nero. But now deliverance came to the faithful out of the island of Britain. For when Maxentius was Emperor, Constantine, the son of Constantius Cæsar and the British princess Helena, put on the purple at York, and because his mother Helena was a follower of Christ, he made himself protector of the Christians; and from Britain his power grew great throughout the countries of the West, until at last he came with a great army into Italy to fight against Maxentius for the empire of the world. Maxentius came out of Rome to meet him, and the two armies encamped in sight of one another by the red rocks near the river Tiber. On the day before they fought, Constantine was in his tent about the middle of the

afternoon, when he looked towards the sun ; and he saw in the sky above the sun a cross of bright light, and below the cross these words written in Greek : “ By this conquer.” The next day he went out to battle with a cross drawn upon his own banner and on the shields of his soldiers, and gained a great victory. Maxentius was drowned in the Tiber by the Mulvian Bridge as he fled from the field : and thus Constantine became master of the world.

CHAPTER CXXXII

THE THREE CROSSES

WHEN Constantine had become Emperor, the Empress-mother Helena went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the holy places ; and while she was there, she desired to build a church on the place where the Lord Jesus had been crucified. Now after Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans, all memory of that place had been forgotten ; and on it the Emperor Hadrian had built a temple of Venus. But now an ancient Jew came to Helena and said, “ My grandfather knew of the place for which you are seeking and told it to my father, and my father

on his deathbed told it to me, but counselled me not to tell it to any man; for when the cross which is there is found, he said, then the worshippers of him who was crucified on it shall reign over the kingdoms of the world." So when he told this to Helena, she ordered the temple of Venus to be pulled down; and as the workmen were digging among the foundations, they found three crosses deep in the earth. But they did not know which of these, if any, was the cross of Christ; so they laid them all out in the midst of the city, and waited for a sign. The same day the body of a dead man was brought by for burial; and when it touched the third cross, the dead man came to life.

CHAPTER CXXXIII

THE IRON CROWN

THEN Helena built a great church over the place where the true cross had been found; and she gave two of the nails of the cross to her son the Emperor, who had one of them set in his helmet, and made the bit of his bridle out of the other, that they might prosper him when he went out to battle; and another of the nails was

taken to Italy, and there Theodolinda Queen of the Lombards had it beaten out into a thin circlet, and set in a crown of jewelled gold, with which the Lombard kings were crowned : and for many generations thereafter the Christian Emperors were crowned with that crown as kings of Italy.

CHAPTER CXXXIV

THE BOUGH OF PARADISE

THE ancient history says that when Adam was in his last sickness, his son Seth went to the gate of the earthly Paradise, and kneeling down before the guard of Cherubim with the flaming sword that kept the gate, prayed them to give him fruit from the Tree of Life, that his father might eat of it and might not die. The angel at the gate plucked a branch off the Tree of Life and gave it him, saying, "Of the fruit of the tree no man may eat now or henceforth, nor be saved that he may not die : but take this branch and keep it well, for when it bears fruit, and not before, shall healing of their sickness come to the children of Adam." When Seth went back with the branch of the tree to Adam, he found him already dead ; and

he planted the branch upon his grave in the mountains of Lebanon, near where afterwards stood the city of Damascus. There it struck root, and grew until the days of King Solomon.

CHAPTER CXXXV

THE TREE OF LIFE

WHEN King Solomon felled the forests of Lebanon to build the temple and the cedar house, this tree was cut down and borne on the rafts with the rest; and he made out of it a pillar in the palace of the Forest of Lebanon. Now when the Queen of Sheba came to visit King Solomon, she knew the virtue of the tree by her wisdom, and said to him, "On this wood shall one be lifted up by whom the Law of Moses and the Kingdom of Israel shall come to an end." Then Solomon, that the law might endure and the kingdom never cease out of his house, took out the pillar and buried it at the foot of the hill; but out of the place where it was buried, rose a spring which had virtue to heal all kinds of sickness: and men made a stone basin for the waters of the spring, and built round it the house of the five porches, which was called the

House of Mercy. There Jesus healed the crippled man; and no long time afterwards, the wood of the tree rose up and floated on the water of the pool. Then the virtue of the pool ceased; but of the wood was made the cross on which Jesus was crucified; for he was the fruit of which the angel foretold that healing should go forth from it to the children of Adam.

CHAPTER CXXXVI

THE KNIGHT'S CLOAK

THERE lived in the West, in the reign of the three Emperors the sons of Constantine, a knight named Martin, who was brave and merciful. In a bitter winter as he rode through the gate of the city of Amiens, he saw a poor man almost naked in the cold; and having no money to give him, he drew his sword, and cutting his own horseman's cloak in two, gave one half of it to the poor man to keep him warm. The next night he had a vision in his sleep; for he saw the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven, clad in the half of the cloak that he had given to the poor man, and heard him say to the angels who stood round, "My brother Martin has

covered me with this cloak." When Martin was an old man, he died in the city of Tours ; and on the same day Ambrose the bishop was performing the service in the church at Milan, and between the reading of the Epistle and the Gospel he fell into a trance at the altar, and remained in the trance until at last the people awoke him, saying, "Sir, the hour is late and the people are weary." He answered, "Do not be angry with me ; for Martin my brother is passed to God, and I have performed the office of his death and burial." They took note of the time, and afterwards news came that Martin had died on that day and at that hour.

CHAPTER CXXXVII

THE FOUR DOCTORS

THIS Ambrose, bishop of Milan, was one of the four doctors of the church of Christ, whom the Christian people throughout the world held in reverence next after the apostles and evangelists. The second of the four doctors was Augustine, who wrote a book of the City of God to comfort men's hearts after the sack of Rome, and died in his cathedral city of Hippo in Africa,

when it was being besieged by the Vandals under King Genseric: for at that time all the Empire was falling to pieces, and men looked for the end of the world to come presently. The third of the four was Jerome; he turned the ancient histories of God's people on earth and the books of the prophets into Latin in his monastery at Bethlehem, and he had a tame lion who served him. The fourth, who lived after the other three, was Gregory bishop of Rome, servant of the servants of God. The might of his prayers was so great that they made the angel of the pestilence sheathe his sword when he stood on the castle of Rome to slay the Roman people, and won a place in Paradise for the soul of the heathen Emperor Trajan, because he had done justice for the widows and orphans of his empire.

CHAPTER CXXXVIII

THE KING OF THE WORLD

ONCE upon a time there was a giant called Reprobus, who was greater of strength and stature than all other men of his time. He was so proud of his size and strength that

he made a vow to serve no other but the greatest king of all the world : and he travelled through many countries seeking the greatest of kings, until at last he came to the court of the Emperor, who gladly took him into his service. Now on a feast day there came to the Emperor's palace a minstrel, who told a tale before the court as they feasted, in which mention was made of the Evil One; and whenever the Evil One's name was spoken, the Emperor and all his court made the sign of the cross. Reprobus asked the Emperor why he did this; and he answered, "I do this to keep off the power of the Evil One." Reprobus said to him, "If you fear the power of the Evil One, he must be a greater king than you : therefore I will serve you no longer, but seek him and be his servant." So he left the Emperor's court and set forth to find the king of whom the Emperor was afraid.

CHAPTER CXXXIX

THE CROSSWAYS

ON his journey he passed over a great waste plain, and on it he met a company, at whose head there rode one very beautiful

and terrible, armed and crowned, who asked him "Where are you going?" He answered, "I travel seeking the Evil One, that I may serve him, because he is the greatest king of all the world." The other said, "I am he: seek no further." Then Reprobus did him homage, and travelled on with him, until they came to a place in the waste where four roads met, and there a cross stood by the wayside. When the Evil One saw the cross, he began to tremble, and turned off the road, making a great circuit that he might not pass where the cross cast a shadow. Reprobus asked him why he did this, but he made no answer: then he said again, "Unless you tell me why you do this, I will serve you no longer." Then the Evil One answered unwillingly, "Upon this cross Jesus Christ died, and I must needs tremble when I see it." But Reprobus said, "Then must Jesus Christ, before whose cross you tremble, be greater than you: I will go to seek him, that I may serve him." So he left that company, and travelled through the world to seek Christ, but for a long time he could not find him.

CHAPTER CXL

THE FORD OF THE RIVER

AT last he came to a wood by a great river, and in the wood was a hermit living in his cell, whom he asked how he might find Christ. The hermit said, "Certainly Christ, whom you seek, is King and Lord of heaven and of all the earth; but before he will take you into his service you must perform the task that he will lay upon you." "Tell me the task," said Reprobis, "that I may perform it." The hermit answered, "You must seek his service by much fasting and prayer." But Reprobis answered, "Of prayer I know nothing; and if I fast, I shall soon lose the great strength which I have beyond all other men, and with which I desire to serve him." Then the hermit thought a while, and said, "Do you see that river, over which there is no bridge nor ford, so that many travellers are drowned in trying to cross it? Make your dwelling by it and carry over the travellers who come, for by so doing you will find favour with him whom you desire to serve." So he built himself a hut by the bank of the river,

and cut him a great pole to keep his feet steady in the water ; and for a long while he lived there carrying over on his shoulders all who came that way.

CHAPTER CXLI

THE CHILD IN THE NIGHT

ONE night as he lay asleep in his hut, he heard a little voice outside calling him by his name ; and when he awoke and went out, he saw a child all alone by the river bank, who said to him, "Carry me over." So he lifted the child up on his shoulder, and took his pole and waded into the river. But as he went, the water rose and swelled round him, and bore down on him so that he could hardly keep his feet, and the child on his shoulder grew heavier and heavier, until the weight seemed to crush him down ; but at last he won across, and staggered out of the water on to the other bank ; then, as the child slid off his shoulder, he sank down panting, and cried, "Child, you weigh on me like the weight of all the world." The child answered, "My servant, do not wonder at this, for to-night you have borne upon your shoulder

him who bears all the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. That you may know the truth of this, set your pole in the earth beside your hut and look at it in the morning. Now have I taken you into my service, and your name shall be changed, and be called Christopher, because you have carried Christ." Then the child vanished away; and Christopher went back lightly through the river, that had fallen shallow and calm, and set his pole in the earth on the bank: and the next morning when he looked, it had become a palm-tree, and was covered with flowers and leaves and fruit.

CHAPTER CXLII

THE CAVE IN THE HILL

IN the persecution of the Emperor Decius, seven Christian men fled out of the city of Ephesus and hid themselves in a cave on the mountain. There they remained in hiding for a long while; and when their food was all spent, one of them would dress himself as a beggar and go down to Ephesus to buy more; for they had good store of silver money with them in the cave. After a while, by the will of

God they all fell asleep in the cave ; and as time went on, the mouth of the cave became filled up with earth, and all memory of it was forgotten. So two hundred years passed : the golden image of Victory had been taken away from the senate-house, and the cross was set up in the heathen temples ; Attila the Hun was laying all Europe waste, and the Emperor Theodosius reigned in Byzantium. On a time, a citizen of Ephesus began to make a stable for his herdsmen on that mountain, and the workmen digging for the foundations broke a hole into the cave. When the fresh air blew in upon them, the seven sleepers in the cave awoke. They supposed that they had slept all night and awaked next morning ; and finding no food left in the cave, they sent one of them as before, dressed in beggar's clothes, to go down to the city and buy bread, and get news of the persecution ; and he took with him from their store five silver pieces stamped with the head and name of the Emperor Decius.

CHAPTER CXLIII

THE CROSS OVER THE GATE

WHEN he came out of the cave, and saw the digging and the masons' work where they had begun to build, he was much astonished that all this work should have been done in one night, and that he and his fellows had heard no noise of the workmen while they slept in the cave. But he went on down the hill, and along the highroad to the city gate. There his astonishment was greater. For above the gate, where the image of an idol had stood, was set up a cross; and going round under the city walls to another gate, he saw the cross set up over it also. He said to himself, "Certainly I am dreaming." Then he went back to the first gate, and covering his face in his cloak, went in, and walked along the streets to the market-place. But as he went along, he heard on every side men naming the name of Jesus Christ, and becoming still more bewildered, he said to himself, "Certainly this is not Ephesus, but some other city, I do not know what." Then he went into the market to buy bread. But when he

offered payment, the market-people looked at his money and said to one another, "This young man has found some old buried treasure." He saw them whispering together, and feared that they knew who he was, and would take him before the Emperor; so he begged them to keep both their bread and his money and let him go. But they only came closer round him, saying, "Whence do you come? and where did you find treasure of old Emperors?" and in a little while the news spread through all the town.

CHAPTER CXLIV

THE ANCIENT MONEY

WORD was brought to Martin the bishop and Antipater the governor; and they sent for him, and asked him, "Where did you find the treasure that this money comes from?" "I found no treasure," said he: "this is my own money." "Of what city are you?" they asked. He said, "I am of this city, if this be the city of Ephesus." "Then," said the governor, "let your kinsfolk come and bear witness for you." But when he named his kinsfolk, no man there had ever heard of such people. Then the gover-

nor said to him, "Young man, how can this money be yours, when it bears on it the head and name of an Emperor who is dead these two hundred years? confess, then, where you found it." Then he knelt down before them, and said, "For God's sake tell me this, lords: where is Decius the Emperor?" "My son," said the bishop, "there is no such person in this world; Decius was Emperor many generations ago." "Sir," he answered, "I saw the Emperor Decius ride into this city yesterday, if this be the city of Ephesus: and it was in fear of him that we fled and hid ourselves in a cave." Then the bishop Martin mused within himself, and said to the governor, "Truly our Lord shows us strange matters by this young man." So they sent word in haste to the Emperor Theodosius, that he should come and see these marvels; and when he came, they went to the cave in the mountain, and found the sleepers sitting in it awake with shining faces: and they said, "Here we have lain asleep for two hundred years and felt nothing, and now the Lord has awakened us again:" and having said thus, they bowed their heads to the earth and committed their souls to Christ. Then the Emperor built a church over

the cave; and there they continue asleep until the day of judgment. But when they turn in their sleep, wars and pestilences and great calamities come upon the world.

CHAPTER CXLV

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

CONCERNING the end of the world, and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the last judgment, prophets and holy men have written, each according to the revelation that was given him. But as Jesus said to his disciples when he was on earth, of the day and the hour when these things shall be no man knows, nor yet the angels in heaven, but God only. For the disciples came to Jesus as he sat on the hill of the olive-woods over against Jerusalem, and asked him to tell them what should be the sign of the coming of his Kingdom, and he answered, "Take heed that no man deceive you; for many shall come in my name, saying that they are I. There shall be false prophets and false Christs, who shall show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive even the elect. I have told you this beforehand, therefore beware.

If men say to you, Behold, he is in the desert! do not go forth: if they say, Behold, he is in the secret chambers! do not believe them. For the coming of the Judge in the clouds of heaven shall be as sudden as the lightning that flashes across the sky, on the day when the trumpet and the great voice of his angels shall call together his elect from the four quarters of the world. Yet there shall be signs foretelling the end for such as can understand them; namely, wars and rumours of wars, offences and betrayals, love grown cold and wickedness overflowing the brim: for these are the pains that must come before the new birth."

CHAPTER CXLVI

THE FIFTEEN SIGNS

ALSO there were written, about the time when the barbarians under Alaric the Visigoth took and sacked the holy city of Rome, the signs of the fifteen days at the end of the world; which are these. On the first day the sea shall rise up and stand like a wall fifty feet above the highest of the tides. On the second, it shall sink so low that men may hardly see it from the shore. On the third, whales and great

fish and creatures of the sea shall appear above the water and cry to heaven, but none shall understand their cry except God. On the fourth, the sea and all waters shall burn. On the fifth, the trees and herbs shall yield dew of blood, and all the birds of the air shall assemble in a field and not eat nor drink, but abide the coming of the Judge in great fear. On the sixth, cities and palaces shall crumble, and thunders and fiery tempests shall rise out of the west where the sun goes down. On the seventh, stones shall hurtle together and smite one another with a dreary sound. On the eighth, all the earth shall tremble so that neither man nor beast may stand upright on it. On the ninth, the mountains shall crumble and fill up the valleys, so that the whole earth shall be flat and even. On the tenth, men shall creep out of caves and not speak to one another. On the eleventh, all the graves shall open, and the bones of the dead rise out of their tombs and issue forth. On the twelfth, the stars shall fall out of heaven. On the thirteenth, all living things shall die. On the fourteenth, the heaven and the earth shall burn. On the fifteenth, there shall be a new heaven and a new earth.

CHAPTER CXLVII

THE VOICE ON THE ISLAND

THIS is the revelation of the last days that was made to John the evangelist when he was in exile on the island of Patmos in the Greek sea. In a vision he heard a great voice as of a trumpet behind him, and turning round to look, he saw seven golden candlesticks, and in the midst of them the likeness of One clothed in a garment down to the feet and girt with a golden girdle. His eyes were like a flame of fire and his feet like molten metal in the furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held the seven stars: out of his mouth went a sharp double-edged sword, and his face was as the sun shining at noon. Seeing him, John fell down at his feet like one dead. But he laid his right hand on him and said: "Do not fear. I am the first and the last: I am he who lives and was dead and am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of death and the dead. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be after these."

CHAPTER CXLVIII

THE WATCHERS OF THE THRONE

AFTER this a door was opened in heaven ; and a voice, as of a trumpet talking, said to John, "Come up hither, and I will show you things which shall be hereafter." Immediately he was taken up in the spirit into heaven : and there he saw a throne set, and One sitting on it, with a rainbow round him like the shining of an emerald. Out of the throne came lightnings and thunderings and voices, and before it burned seven lamps, which are the seven Spirits of God. In front of the throne stretched a sea of glass like crystal : and round it were four living creatures full of eyes, each with six wings, who do not cease by day or night from giving glory and honour to the Sitter on the throne, saying, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God, the Almighty, who was, and who is, and who shall be." But under the golden altar before the throne lay all the souls of the saints, clad in white robes, waiting there until their number should be complete and the end should come.

CHAPTER CXLIX

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

THEN one came forth sitting on a white horse, crowned, with a bow in his hand; and after him came one sitting on a red horse, with a great sword; and after them a black horse, and one sitting on it with a pair of balances in his hand; and last of all a pale horse, and the name of the rider was Death, and his hound followed close at his heel. Now the souls of the saints cried out from where they lay, "How long, O Lord?" and they were bidden to have patience for a little longer yet. After these things the sun turned black and the moon blood-red, and the stars fell out of heaven like fruit off a tree in a violent wind, and the sky parted asunder and curled up like burning paper; and all the kings and mighty ones of the earth hid themselves, and called on the mountains to fall and cover them from the anger of God. Then there was silence in heaven for half an hour: and seven trumpets were given to the seven angels who stand before God.

CHAPTER CL

THE TRUMPETS OF GOD

AFTER that another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer full of incense, to offer the prayers of the saints before the throne ; and the smoke of the incense went up, mingled with the prayers of the saints, from his hand. Then the angel filled the censer with fire from the altar, and cast it down upon the earth, and there followed voices and thunderings and lightnings and an earthquake : and four angels stood on the four corners of the earth holding the four winds of the world, that the wind might not blow over land or sea : and the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. But when six of the trumpets had sounded, another angel came down from heaven clothed in a cloud ; round his head was a rainbow, his face was like the sun, and his feet like fire. He stood with one foot on the earth and one on the sea, and cried out with an awful voice, and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. But when John was going to write down what they had said,

he heard another voice from heaven saying, "Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them ; for at the sounding of the trumpet of the seventh angel there shall be no more delay, but the mystery of God shall be finished."

CHAPTER CLI

THE WHITE CLOUD

THEN the seventh angel sounded ; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ : " and another angel flew across mid-heaven, holding the everlasting Gospel in his hand, and cried as he flew, "Fear God and give glory to him : for the hour of his judgment is come." Then there appeared a white cloud, and one sitting on the cloud like the Son of Man, crowned, with a sharp sickle in his hand : and another angel came out from the altar, and cried to him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in your sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of earth ; for her grapes are fully ripe, and the time of her vintage is come." So he thrust his sickle into the

earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great wine-press of God. . But in heaven was another sight, great and wonderful, as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire. All the saints stood upon it with the harps of God, praising him ; and a voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters and of mighty thunders, said, " Salvation, and honour, and glory, and power to the Lord our God ! Let us be glad and rejoice, for the marriage of heaven is come, and the bride has made herself ready."

CHAPTER CLII

THE LAST JUDGMENT

THEN an angel standing in the sun cried aloud to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, "Come and gather together to the supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings and captains and mighty men:" and the kings of the earth went out to battle, and were slain by the sword of God ; and the birds were gorged with their flesh. Thereafter an angel came down from heaven, with the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand, who bound the ancient Serpent, the deceiver of the

world, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and sealed it up above him. Then a great white throne was set, and One sat on it from before whose face earth and heaven fled away. The dead, both small and great, stood before the throne, and the books were opened, and the dead were judged out of what was written in the books, according to their works: and when the judgment was finished, death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.

CHAPTER CLIII

THE ETERNAL CITY

ALSO there was a new heaven and a new earth: for the former heaven and the former earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. Then one of the seven angels came to John and talked with him, saying, "Come with me, and I will show you the bride." Then he took him in the spirit to a great mountain peak on the new earth; and from it he saw the holy city descending out of heaven adorned as a bride, having the glory of God. The splendour of it was like the light of a precious stone; it had a wall of jasper, great

and high, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels. The street of the city was of pure gold like clear glass, and the twelve gates were twelve pearls, every gate of one pearl. Through the golden street ran the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God; and in the middle of the street, on either side of the river, was the tree of life, new-grown out of Paradise. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine in it, and had neither sunlight nor candle-light; for the glory of God lightened it; and the gates were never shut, for there is no night there. Blessed are those who do God's will: for they shall have right to the Tree of Life, and shall enter in through the gates into the City.

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